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THURSDAY APRIL 16 1992

45P

Lloyd Webber pays £10m for 'unseen' Canaletto



Lloyd Webber: will put painting on display

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALESROOM CORRESPONDENT

A VIEW of London by Antonio Canaletto was bought for £10.25 million at Christie's yesterday by Andrew Lloyd Webber, who immediately promised to put it on public view.

Afterwards, the composer of *Phantom of the Opera*, *Evita* and *Cats* joked: "I might have to write another musical before I can think of doing this again." He added that the painting fitted in with his plans to set up a charitable foundation to buy art for Britain.

The Tate Gallery had tried to buy the painting before the sale, but could not raise enough money. Mr Lloyd Webber, 44, said: "When they let me know that they could not afford to pay more than £6 million, I realised we had to step in to save it for the nation." The price was a record for

an Old Master painting sold in London. The composer had been prepared to pay £2.5 million more.

"Although Canaletto is Italian, this is a quintessentially British painting. It is a marvellous painting," he said. "It is the best landscape I have ever seen, even though my main interest is in pre-Raphaelite painting. It is an extraordinary view of London. It has hardly been seen so far and it really must go on public view. I haven't decided yet exactly where it will first be shown."

David Mason, a dealer with the West End firm Maconnal Mason who represented Mr Lloyd Webber during the sale, said: "Andrew was very anxious that the painting should not leave the country." Mr Mason was so confident during bidding that he upstaged the auctioneer, Noel Annesley, by calling out the rising increments himself.

The sale lasted just over a minute.

The winning bid was £9.2 million, but with a 10 per cent buyer's premium and VAT. Mr Lloyd Webber will pay £10.25 million. The painting, which was sold by the Malmesbury family, will initially hang in one of his houses before it is put on public view.

View of the Old Horse Guards London from St James's Park is, at 93 inches wide, the largest and among the best preserved works from Canaletto's English years. The previous record for a single work by the artist was £6.87 million paid in 1990 for another London view, *The Thames from Westminster*.

Yesterday's purchase was welcomed by a relieved heritage lobby. "Three cheers for Andrew Lloyd Webber," Sir Hugh Leggatt, of Heritage in Danger, said. "Lots of buyers would not want to take responsibility for their artistic patrimony like this." A spokesman from the

Tate Gallery said: "We are pleased the painting will stay in England."

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, had earlier condemned Christie's for its "exceptionally high estimate" of more than £8 million. He managed to raise £5 million before the sale.

Other heritage lobbyists pointed out that, apart from representing the Admiralty Building and St Martin in the Fields, the painting included a glimpse of Downing Street. In their opinion, the government should have bought it for display in Number 10.

Mr Lloyd Webber is known as a collector of Victorian paintings, so the Canaletto purchase represents a departure. His trophies include Lord Leighton's *Dante in Exile*, for which he paid a record £1.1 million at Sotheby's.

"He has the finest collection of Victorian paintings formed in the

last decade," Simon Taylor, head of 19th century paintings at Sotheby's, said. Mr Lloyd Webber was "extremely knowledgeable and has been for many years. He is a real Victorian enthusiast who is studying the subject all the time. He is not somebody who is simply taking advice from dealers." Apart from the Lord Leighton painting, Mr Taylor said, "there are other £1 million paintings in his collection".

Mr Lloyd Webber flew into London early this week from his home in France, partly for meetings in London, and partly to monitor the Canaletto situation. Having heard of his successful bid, he returned to France yesterday afternoon.

His decision to bid was made at the last minute, and it is unlikely that he raised enough cash to pay immediately for the sale. His credit

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

RELIGIOUS FABLE



Kate Saunders says Catholics feel guilty about sex — but will her book make matters worse? Life & Times, page 4

BARDIC MYTH



Metamorphosis and the muse: Ted Hughes defends his view of Shakespeare Life & Times, page 5

RACING LEGEND



Farewell to Nijinsky: the sport of kings mourns as triple crown winner dies at 25 Page 36

Labour power struggle hots up

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE battle for the deputy leadership of the Labour party became a four-cornered contest last night as Margaret Beckett, John Prescott and Ann Clwyd entered the lists alongside Bryan Gould.

The separate struggle for the leadership was also complicated when Ken Livingstone, the hard-left MP for Brent East, indicated that he would be a candidate on a platform of defence cuts, unilateral nuclear disarmament, devaluation of the pound and lower taxes on the middle classes. Mr Livingstone will find it difficult to get the 55 nominations he needs to stand.

Mrs Beckett, the undeclared candidate of the existing party hierarchy, starts as a narrow favourite for the deputy leadership over Mr Gould, the shadow environment spokesman, who is also challenging John Smith for the main prize as leader.

Her entry into the race immediately prompted suggestions that party bosses had conjured up a "dream ticket" that would sweep to victory in the electoral college on July 18. However, with unease growing at all levels of the party about union leaders and a cabal of senior shadow

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Peter Riddell, page 16



Beckett: narrow favourite for the deputy leadership over Bryan Gould

Seven held in IRA hunt

By RICHARD FORD

SEVEN people were being questioned by police in London and Derby last night in connection with a series of Irish republican terrorist attacks in Britain.

Two men and a woman were detained in London after a seven-week surveillance operation. Four people were held in Derby, and police are searching for three men wanted in connection with the killing of a recruiting sergeant on Monday. They named one as Joseph Magee, 26, who had previously lived in Armagh, Northern Ireland and had a previous conviction for a firearms offence.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, is to receive a report on whether the security services should take over from the Metropolitan Police special branch responsibility for gathering intelligence about mainland IRA activities.

Surrounded by his hand-picked team, a relaxed and confident Mr Major thanked colleagues for their efforts in the campaign and paid particular tribute to the absent party chairman Chris Patten.

Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, told the cabinet

that he would be drawing up a considerable legislative pro-

gramme to be announced in

Reshaped cabinet sets out priorities

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE new cabinet met for the first time in Downing Street yesterday to consider the government's programme for the first session of the new Parliament, which runs until November 1993. The setting up of a national lottery, control of bogus refugees and laws covering inner cities and housing are expected in the Queen's speech on May 6.

John Major opened the 40-minute meeting with a simple "welcome back". There were no cheers but the mood of the meeting was friendly and businesslike. "It was business as usual," Downing Street said.

Surrounded by his hand-picked team, a relaxed and confident Mr Major thanked colleagues for their efforts in the campaign and paid particular tribute to the absent party chairman Chris Patten.

Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, told the cabinet that he would be drawing up a considerable legislative pro-

gramme to be announced in

Continued on page 20, col 6

Carrie's refusal, page 2
Speaker's test, page 5

Personal competitors from IBM.



The world's fastest 386

SX-based chip is exclusively available in our new range of PS/2s.

Oh to be at the airport, now that April's here

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A COMBINATION of post-election euphoria and gloomy weather forecasts have prompted thousands of Britons to chase the sun at the Easter weekend. They may, however, be disappointed.

Tour operators and travel agents had virtually sold their stocks of instant holidays by yesterday afternoon. Thomas Cook said that it had only a few left which may go cheap to anyone with the nerve to turn up at one of its shops, preferably a or near an airport, and negotiate a price.

Thomson Holidays, the biggest tour operator, agreed that almost everything had gone, from Cairo to Cuba, in the past seven days, with just a few Easter breaks left in Florida, Spain or Greece.

Luna Poly said that late bookings may still be able to get away to Florida, but gave a warning that they may have to be

flexible about which airport they fly from and which hotel they are allocated.

The threat of a Spanish hotel-workers' strike — with the possibility of guests having to make their own beds and face restricted menus until resume normal work on Saturday — still looms, but the Association of British Travel Agents said that tour operators would do their utmost to minimise any problems.

About 250,000 people are expected to fly off on package breaks in the next few days, with almost as many again taking scheduled flights to visit friends and relations. British Airways will use extra staff to cope with the 16,000 international and 20,000 domestic passengers expected on scheduled services. Flights to Belfast were very heavily booked.

Those bound for mountain holidays may find some of the best skiing conditions for 50 years, with high Alpine resorts reporting deep snow, and more forecast. Newly-opened Euro Disney

was proving a last-minute attraction, although 90 per cent of those wanting to see Mickey Mouse were hoping for the "real thing" in Florida or California.

The London Weather Centre said yesterday that a front would sweep around Britain until Easter Monday, keeping mostly cloudy weather with some sunshine and showers over Britain throughout the holiday. The best weather is likely to be in the south of England, below the Bristol Channel and the Thames estuary, with temperatures at 12C to 14C (54F to 57F).

Shops are hoping for a boost over the holiday weekend. Supermarkets, which will open on all four days for the first time, are competing with discounts on such items as fish for Good Friday and wines to accompany spring chicken.

In London, Harrods is to open on Good Friday for the first time. A spokesman said: "We have made the decision in response to public demand."

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Currie looks to Europe after giving Major the brush-off



Currie makes no secret of love for publicity

EDWINA CURRIE Currie's hopes of landing a seat in the European parliament, her antipathy towards Kenneth Clarke and her desire to expand her media interests were said yesterday by her friends to lie behind her baffling refusal to take a job in John Major's new government.

As Westminster remained agog at the former junior health minister's snub for Mr Major and speculation raged over her motives, she was uncharacteristically uncommunicative as she left her London flat, telling reporters to "scram".

Asked why she declined the prison portfolio at the Home Office, she responded: "Because of people like you."

EDWINA CURRIE, while taking French lessons, is remaining enigmatically silent about rumoured plans to expand her career on the Continent. Nicholas Wood reports

However, some of her closest friends suggested that as she strolled up Downing Street on Tuesday afternoon, she may never have seriously intended to accept the prime minister's offer of modest promotion.

Insiders pointed to three factors in Mrs Currie's decision to stay on the back benches and virtually to scupper all chances of making a ministerial comeback. First, she is understood to be

planning to stand as a candidate in the 1992 Euro-elections. She is believed to have told Conservative central office of her ambitions. Mrs Currie, who supported Michael Heseltine in the leadership contest, has become increasingly enthusiastic about Britain's European role in recent years. Had she returned to the government, she would have had to abandon such schemes. The fact that she has been taking

French lessons is circumstantial evidence.

Second, she is said not to have forgiven Kenneth Clarke over the way he behaved during the salmonella-in-eggs affair that led to her resignation in December 1988. She had no wish to be reunited with him at the Home Office.

Mr Clarke was her boss at the health department and, according to her version of events, it was he who ordered her not to retract her explosive comment that "most" egg production in the country was infected. At the same time, Tory MPs urged on by egg producers facing financial ruin, were demanding her head. Her fate was sealed

at a meeting of the executive of the backbench 1922 committee of Tory MPs. The following day, she was gone with no word of regret for the uproar she had caused.

One source said yesterday: "She was told by Ken Clarke to keep her mouth shut. She was simply allowed to twist quietly in the wind." For his part, Mr Clarke was said yesterday to have been keen to have her back at his side and to remain an admirer of her talent for getting the message across.

Third, Mrs Currie, who has never made any secret of her taste for publicity, is said to believe that her long-term future lies in becoming a television and newspaper ce-

lebrity along the lines pioneered by such figures as Robert Kilroy-Silk, Brian Walden, Norman Tebbit and Austin Mitchell. At one time, she was being paid £2,000 a column by *Today* newspaper and she is keen to keep open the door to that kind of money and fame.

"She loves publicity and being in the papers," one friend said yesterday. "She loves the media. She sees herself as being more successful, more prominent and more effective than Tebbit or Mitchell. I am sure that is what she is looking for. If she takes a job in the government, it would have closed off that option immediately."

Downing Street brings in new faces

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALEX ALLAN is to be John Major's principal private secretary. Downing Street announced yesterday. Mr Allan, 41, who served as principal private secretary to Nigel Lawson when Chancellor, succeeds Andrew Turnbull, who returns to the Treasury.

Other changes at Downing Street include the retirement of Sir Percy Cradock, the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs. He will be succeeded by Sir Rodric Braithwaite, 59, Britain's ambassador to Moscow. Sir Peter Levene, 50, former chief of defence procurement, has become the prime minister's adviser on efficiency, succeeding Sir Angus Fraser.

David Heathcoat-Amory becomes deputy chief whip, replacing Alastair Goodlad who becomes a Foreign Office minister, while Sydney Chapman becomes vice-chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household, taking over from John Taylor who has moved to the Lord Chancellor's department.

Timothy Wood and Timothy Boswell move from assistant whips to senior whips while Andrew Mackay, MP for Berkshire East, Robert Hughes (Harrow West) and James Arbuthnot (Wansfield and Woodford), join the government as assistant whips.

Richard Wilson moves from the Treasury to replace Sir Terence Heifer as permanent secretary at the environment department.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie,

Lang introduces user-friendly team

BY KERRY GILL

A NEW era of a "user-friendly" Scottish Office was ushered in yesterday when Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, introduced his ministerial team. All are among the most popular Conservatives north of the border.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, previously Lord Advocate, takes over from Michael Forsyth as minister of state. Lord Fraser, who has been in charge of Lockerbie investigations, will take him his portfolio of health, social work and home affairs, including controversial topics.

This latter responsibility was seen as a sign that the government hopes to defuse the constitutional issue. Lord Fraser is president of the Scottish Tory Reform Group, which backs a form of devolution. Although the government is hardly about to concede home rule, it may at least confuse the opposition.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton takes on education. Allan Stewart keeps industry and local government, as well as planning and House of Commons responsibility for health. Sir Hector Monro will be responsible for agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the arts, sport and heritage and the environment.

The team was referred to last night as the "user-friendly Scottish Office" - an image hard for Aberdeen and try to end in Perth and Kinross a coalition of Scottish National Party, Liberal Democrat and Independent.

Labour, which controls 27 districts, will be fighting to maintain its pre-eminence in local government and will face a strong challenge from the nationalists. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said that the party would seek a mandate to demand a multi-option referendum on the constitution.

The Liberal Democrats have more say in local government than it might appear since many Independents are Liberal "Democrats" under another name.

Hard-line rumours denied

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL MATES, the new Northern Ireland Office minister of state, with responsibility for security in the province, yesterday played down suggestions that his appointment, and that of Sir Patrick Mayhew, as Northern Ireland secretary, signalled a harder line by the government on terrorism.

Speaking on BBC Radio Ulster, Mr Mates said that he believed that the new Stormont team would be as diligent in its search for political

progress as its predecessor. "Everybody knows that security isn't the answer. Security is essential so that we can try to lead as normal a life as possible, but there has to be a political solution."

Mr Mates added that he believed that there was no reason why the present strategy of police in the primary role, with the army in support, should not continue. Defeating terrorism was a matter of achieving the best possible level of co-operation.

Some observers, including some Unionists, predict that Mr Mates, like many of his predecessors, will talk tough but not try to depart from current policy.

The changes reflect John Major's view that since science and technology affect the work of all departments it makes sense to handle them centrally.

Yesterday, Save British Science said the change was "a signal to scientists, industry, and the public that science policy is going to be taken seriously for the first time in Britain". Science will now have a single department to champion its cause in the annual battle for funds.

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Downing
Street
brings in
new faces

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 16 1992

HOME NEWS 3

Police name man wanted over murder of soldier

BY CRAIG SETON

POLICE have named one of the three men they want to question in connection with the murder of Sergeant Michael Newman in Derby on Monday. They said that Joseph Philip Paul Magee, 26, and the two other suspects were dangerous and could be armed.

Mr Magee, who comes from Northern Ireland, was named yesterday after armed police raided four homes in Derby, including that of his sister, Kate Magee.

Derbyshire police disclosed last night that four people had been arrested under the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act during the investigation of the shooting. The four were understood to have been detained on Monday, the day of the shooting. On Tuesday a magistrate gave permission for them to be held for a further period for questioning. They do not include any of the three men being sought in connection with the attack.

Don Dovaston, an assistant chief constable of Derbyshire, confirmed that Mr Magee had previous convictions, including one for a firearms offence, and had been sentenced to a total of six years imprisonment at Belfast crown court in 1987.

It also emerged that Mr Magee, who has previously lived in co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, shared a house in



Magee: police say that he could be armed

escaped in a car driven by a third man.

Mr Dovaston issued a photograph of Mr Magee and a description of two other men, one known as "Wacko". Both are said to speak with Irish accents and are believed to have been in Derby for some days before the killing.

Mr Dovaston said that police in Britain and abroad had been notified and he asked for further public help in tracing the men. "Members of the public should take no action, but notify the police immediately. They are a danger." The firearm used in the attack had not been recovered.

Mr Magee is described as about 5ft 4in, slim and weighing about eight and a half stone. He has a fair complexion, blue eyes and thinning and receding short, straight hair. He has a four-inch scar on his left leg and a scar on his right wrist. On his left arm is a tattoo of a heart with the letter A inside and the names Pat and Joe underneath.

The second man, Wacko, is aged between 22 and 25, 5ft 7in, and has short, light brown, receding and thinning hair. He has a round face and an athletic build and is tanned. He is clean shaven and occasionally wears gold-rimmed glasses. The third man is aged between 20 and 22, 6ft, of slim to medium build, with short, dark hair and a ruddy complexion. He has a Mexican-style moustache and the letter F tattooed on one forearm.

Police said that two men had followed Sgt Newman, a member of the Royal Corps of Signals, towards his car after he had finished work. After shooting him, they ran to a gold Ford Granada in which a driver was waiting. It sped off and was abandoned a quarter of a mile away. The three occupants escaped on foot.

Police said that the car may have been seen parked in the Northumberland Street area of Derby in the days before the shooting. Witnesses had seen one of the three running men lagging behind his accomplices, who shouted to him to catch up.

One of the houses searched by police was in Northumberland Avenue, in the Norman area of Derby. Neighbours said that it had been occupied for about four years by Kate Magee, 30, who lived there with her son, Christopher, aged about eight. Police entered through the loft of a neighbouring property.

A neighbour, who asked not to be named, said that Joseph Magee was a regular visitor and had been there at the weekend. He often turned up with other men. She said that he walked with a limp caused by being shot in the leg. She added: "He was a nice polite chap."

A statement issued by the INLA said that recruiting officers were part of the "British war machine".

Third person held after London raids

BY RICHARD FORD AND NICHOLAS WATT

ANTI-TERRORIST detectives were questioning a third person last night held as part of a police investigation into IRA activities in Britain.

The arrests, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the discovery of an arms and explosives cache could herald a breakthrough for police investigating a series of IRA attacks on the mainland.

The three were detained after enquiries and surveillance operations lasting seven weeks, according to anti-terrorist sources. A man and a woman held at a bungalow in Northolt, west London, late on Monday were being questioned at Paddington Green police station. A third person, believed to work for an estate agent, was arrested in north London on Tuesday night and is also being held at the police station.

The couple are known locally as Audrey Masters and Jimmy Canning. Their detention for 48 hours before application to the home secretary for an extension, was due to run out last night.

After the arrests, police found an arms cache in a lock-up garage at Uxbridge, four miles from the Northolt bungalow. It is understood that the haul included 100lb of Semtex explosive, 12 fire-

arms, including Kalashnikov rifles, and bomb-making equipment. The garage and two others in a row of 19 had recently been repossessed.

Morgan Williams, 21, whose flat overlooks the garage, said: "On Tuesday morning I saw about 15 police officers arrive. They removed about 12 plastic bin liners and three blue and white boxes. They took photos of the garage door and went inside and started taking photos of the floor, walls and the garage doors."

Police are understood to be questioning the three people about IRA attacks, including the small bomb that exploded in Soho, central London, on April 6, causing damage but no injuries, and the bomb defused last June outside the Alfred Beck's Theatre in Hayes, west London. That device was timed to go off during a concert of the Blues and Royals military band.

Anti-terrorist sources emphasised that they believe at least two IRA active service units are operating on the mainland and an intensive hunt is still being carried out for those responsible for the weekend blasts in London and other attacks, including those on the rail and Underground networks.

Passing a two-year sentence, suspended for two years and coupled with a supervision order, Mr Justice Leonard said: "You have escaped prison by the skin of your teeth but I have come to the conclusion it would be heartless. It's an act of mercy."

Williams had admitted two charges of false imprisonment at an earlier hearing.

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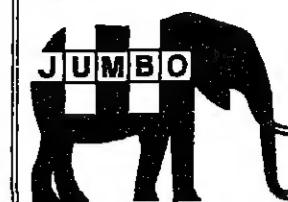
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SATURDAY
REVIEW

BLEASDALE'S
FINEST HOUR



Forget writing: the most glittering prize of Alan Bleasdale's career was with Huyton boys' football team



Searching police frogmen on the fast-flowing Nidd, looking for a baby said to have been thrown in



Missing: Tara Calman, aged five months

Police look for baby 'thrown in river'

POLICE yesterday searched a six-mile length of river for a girl of five months whose mother claimed that she had thrown the child into the water from a road bridge (Paul Wilkinson writes).

North Yorkshire police began an enquiry after detaining, at the Bushy Stoop Inn, near Thirsk, on Tuesday a woman aged 30 who had allegedly telephoned home to say she had dumped her baby.

Det Supt Ian Peacock, leading the search for Tara Calman, said yesterday: "We are keeping an open mind on

what might have happened to the child, but if what this woman tells us is true I am very fearful for its life."

Tara was allegedly thrown into the Nidd at dusk on Monday. The search was of a stretch from a bridge on the A61 at Killinghall to Knaresborough. Frogmen investigated the muddy waters, and officers with dogs searched the banks.

Police want to hear from anyone who saw the white Astra GTE car driven by the woman, who is single, and from Hinkley, Leicestershire.

time to time." Mr O'Friel, now chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, said: "Frankly, however good a system you run, you have very difficult people in combinations who occasionally have not anticipated. Then something very bad goes off. One just hopes nobody else has to face anything like that again." He said that too much change too fast was not necessarily the best way forward.

The Woolf report's analysis of prison conditions and of how the riot developed was an indictment of the state of Strangeways and the handling of the violence. Lord Justice Woolf found that a plan, produced by Brendan O'Friel, the governor, to retake Strangeways on the second day of the riot was rejected by Brian Emes, deputy director general of the prison service.

"I think prison disturbances will still occur from time to time," Mr O'Friel said. "Prisoners were slipped into disarray over how to handle the riot. The subsequent enquiry by Lord Justice Woolf found that a plan, produced by Brendan O'Friel, the governor, to retake Strangeways on the second day of the riot was rejected by Brian Emes, deputy director general of the prison service.

Improvements have since been made. Each prisoner has his own cell and proper sanitation.

Ringleaders await sentence as Strangeways trial ends

Fourth man convicted of jail riot

BY RONALD FAUX AND RAY CLANCY

FOUR men found guilty of rioting in Britain's worst jail disturbance will be sentenced today. The ringleaders Paul Taylor, 27, and John Spencer, 30, together with Tiny Doran, 25, and James Miller, 31, were found guilty after a 12-week trial at Manchester Crown Court which ended yesterday.

Four others were cleared of taking part in the riot. Alan Lord, 30, Martin McLatchie, 35, Andrew Nelson, 22, and Brian Parke, 23, had all denied charges of riot, as had the four prisoners who were convicted.

After the final verdict on Miller was returned yesterday, Mr Justice Mantell told the six men and six women on the jury that they could be excused jury service for life.

The court was told how violence flared during a Sunday morning chapel service at the prison on April 1, 1990, when Taylor grabbed a mi-

crophone from the chaplain Noel Procter. Prison officers were overpowered, keys taken and the jail systematically wrecked. Spencer claimed from the witness box that he had planned the riot after receiving a beating from prison officers.

The cost of the disturbances is still being counted and estimates suggest that the final bill will be more than £100 million. The riot turned into a 25-day siege and prompted violence in other prisons, including Bristol and Dartmoor. An enquiry was ordered, which led to an overhaul of the prison system.

Unrest had been growing at Strangeways for some time. The Victorian jail was designed to hold 970 prisoners but, when the riot started, there were 1,646 inmates, most sharing cells and locked up for 23 hours a day without proper toilet facilities.

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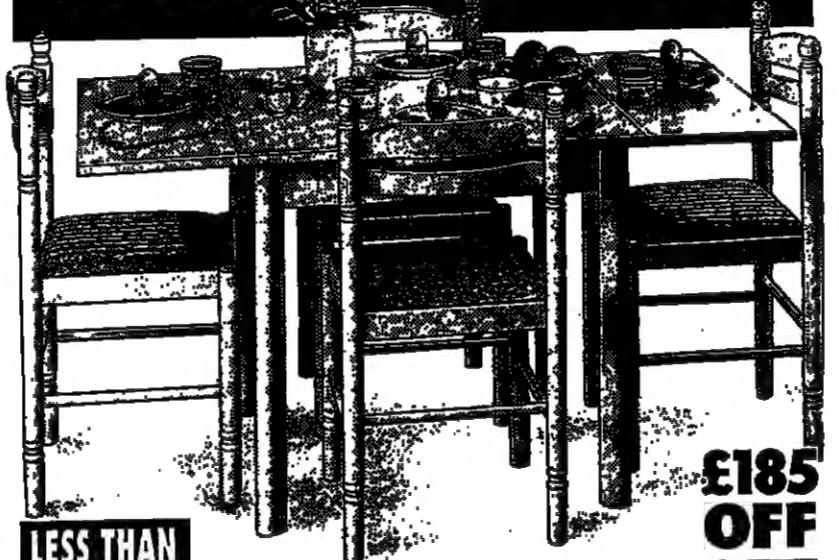
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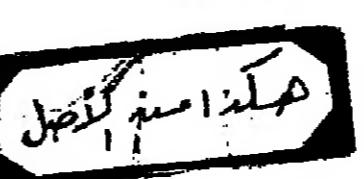
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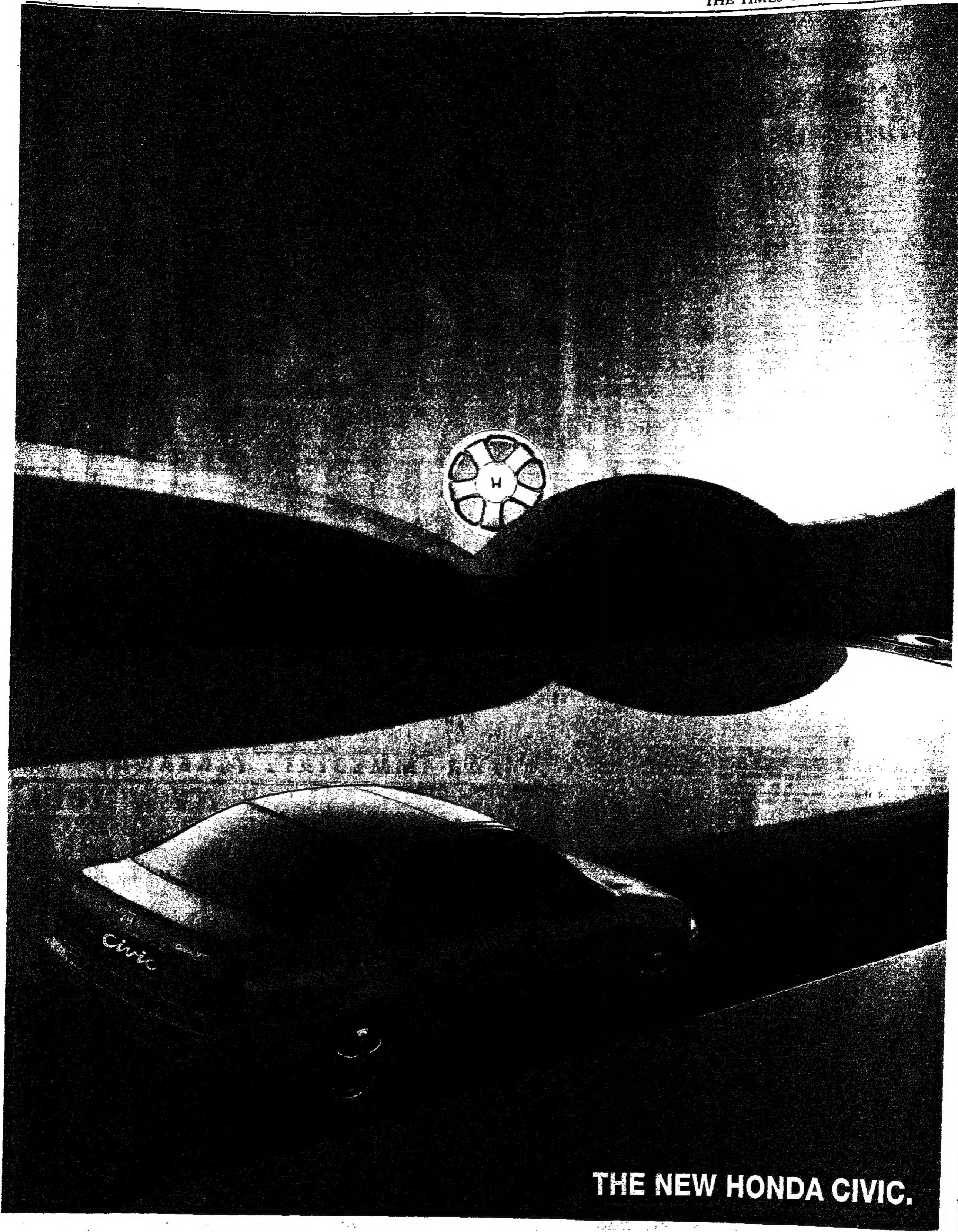
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Angry Donaldson condemns 'campaign of calumny'

Judges attack Lane's critics

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE judiciary strongly attacked critics of the criminal justice system yesterday for trying to make the retiring Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, a scapegoat for its failures.

On Lord Lane's last day in office, senior members of the legal establishment denounced the recent criticism from the media, public and politicians and made a coded attack on the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, for failing to give him more support.

Lord Mackay did not join more than 60 judges, plus barristers and solicitors, who crowded into the Lord Chief Justice's court to pay tribute to Lord Lane after twelve years in the most senior judicial post in England and Wales. Lord Mackay was attending the first cabinet meeting of the new government. He issued a statement praising Lord Lane's contribution to the law.

Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, attacked critics of Lord Lane for running a campaign of false accusations. "I can give voice to the anger and disgust which we have all felt at the

campaign of calumny which has been waged against you in recent months."

"I have no doubt that you, like all judges, regard exposure to public criticism as an occupational hazard. But what has outraged all of us is the spectacle of attempts to make you the scapegoat for failures of the criminal justice system, the cause of which, however defined, lay outside your control or responsibility. That process has gone far beyond the point at which it could be excused as confusion of thought."

Lord Donaldson, 71, said that, in the eyes of the profession, Lord Lane would be seen as a great judge. He criticised "confused" newspaper comment after the announcement of Lord Lane's retirement. "Judges, it appears, should be required to retire at the age of 70, if not earlier. But a Lord Chief Justice who decided to retire just before his 74th birthday was apparently 'taking early retirement'."

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, said that it was the overwhelming feeling of the profession that difficulties which had come to light in recent years had been unfairly blamed on Lord Lane.

"These burdens have been heaped far too heavily and wrongly at your lordship's door. We are all anxious that this be not allowed to obscure the huge contribution you have made to the administration of justice."

Gareth Williams, chairman of the Bar, delivered what was seen as a rebuke to Lord Mackay. He said: "There may be some in high places who may have a momentary pang that the support you might reasonably have looked to and fairly ex-

pected was not fully and freely forthcoming."

Lord Lane spoke of the pressures of working against a background of "orchestrated and ill-informed attacks" on the judiciary. "Too few people realise that the independence of the judges is the one thing that stands between John Citizen and the abuse of power by governments. It is only when that independence has been eroded that its true value is appreciated."

Lord Taylor, whose successor Lord Taylor takes over after the Easter law break, ended his career as one of the most criticised lord chief justices this century. His retirement follows a series of miscarriages of justice and a disagreement with the government over its efforts to break barristers' monopoly of audience in the higher courts.

He is credited with bringing order and consistency to sentencing policy. He ended the legal position that a man could not rape his wife and favoured non-custodial sentences for petty offenders.

Leading article, page 17
Law reports
L&T section, page 18



Lord Lane: unhappy at "orchestrated attacks"



Love's labours: the actor Edward de Souza and the soprano Gillian Humphreys prepare for a performance of *Shakespeare's Love* at Southwark cathedral, south London, next Thursday, the 428th anniversary of the bard's birth. The Shakespeare Globe Centre will also present three other events

Halogen light 'poses cancer risk'

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

QUARTZ halogen lamps, increasingly being installed at home and at work, may put people at risk of skin cancer, researchers are claiming.

Studies on mice exposed to light from such lamps have found that skin cancers develop. The researchers say that the levels of exposure, although high, were close to those that some people might experience at work.

The findings, by Silvio De Flora and Francesco D'Agostini, of Genoa University, Italy, are published in *Nature*. They confirm studies with bacteria that showed that light in the high-frequency wavelength emitted by quartz halogen lamps, caused genetic mutations.

In the animal experiments, four hairless mice were kept under normal lighting, and four others were exposed for 12 hours a day to a 12 volt, 50 watt, quartz halogen lamp 50 centimetres away from them. A further four mice were exposed to an identical lamp shielded with transparent plastic. After 12 months, all the mice exposed to the unshielded lamp had mild, mostly non-malignant, skin cancers. None of the other mice had developed cancers.

Osram, a firm that makes the lamps, rejected the findings. It said that studies had shown there was no risk. "In conventional office applications, an eight-hour day under halogen lamps is equivalent to a ten-minute stay in the summer sun."

North wins war museum

The Imperial War Museum has chosen Hartlepool for a new maritime-based branch which is expected to cost at least £10 million to build.

The museum, announced yesterday in conjunction with the town and Teesside Development Corporation, which expects to raise the money, is to open in 1995, in time for the 50th anniversary of the end of the second world war.

Dr Alan Borg, director-general of the Imperial War Museum, said the new site would be part of Hartlepool's developing marina.

Climber dies

Francis Pearson, 55, of Ellon, Grampian, died after falling into the sea while climbing a 100ft rock stack with his son at the Bullers of Buchan cliffs near Cruden Bay, Grampian. Mark Chinery, 30, who lives nearby and tried to rescue him, suffered hypothermia.

Titanic death

Bert Dean, 82, whose family decided to board the Titanic on April 15, 1912, only at the last moment, has died in Southampton exactly 80 years after surviving the sinking, in which 1,500 people, including his father, died.

Fans honoured

A £100,000 memorial garden, dedicated to the 95 people crushed to death at Hillsborough, was opened in Sheffield on the third anniversary of the disaster. Its gates are scale copies of those to Liverpool's Anfield ground, bearing the words "You'll never walk alone".

First night makes audience miserable

By RONALD FAUX

THE provincial premiere of *Les Misérables* at the Palace Theatre in Manchester turned out to be a sad occasion confirming the show's sobriquet of *The Glums*.

The performance, on Tuesday night, had to be abandoned when one of two barricades essential to the plot and weighing three-and-a-half tonnes refused to move. The compressor that propelled it across the stage and into position failed.

Throughout an extended interval technicians tried to repair the machine, but the barricade remained, as any good barricade should, stubbornly immovable. The capacity audience of 2,000 was then told by Cameron Mackintosh, the show's impresario, that it was impossible for the production to continue.

It would have been too dangerous for the 20 technical stagehands to try to manhandle the barricade into position, and without it Victor Hugo's story of the siege of Paris would have lacked authenticity. Instead, the entire cast assembled on stage and sang the final number, many of them in tears. The audience stood and applauded.

The production is claimed to have broken provincial box office records with ad-

vance bookings of £4.5 million for its Manchester run, which could extend beyond October 10.

Andrew De Ross, general manager of the Palace Theatre, said that a replacement compressor was being brought from Huddersfield and he hoped that the second night of the £2 million production would go ahead unhindered. "It was an extremely unfortunate breakdown but the audience was wonderful," he said. "A lot of them were in tears as well. They will be offered alternative tickets or their money back."

Technical hitches and uncooperative machinery are the bane of artistic endeavour. When *Les Misérables* was performed on Broadway a faulty computer half-ed the show.

Old theatre hands might recall the case of the elaborate sea shell that smashed shut on the Goddess Venus, who was sitting in it during a production of a Wagner opera. The shell closed, revealing a sign that said: This Side Up. The safety chain quickly descended and muffled cries could be heard as the opera's hero sank to his knees trying furiously to prise open the shell.

In the annals of theatrical mishap, a recalcitrant barricade is of small moment.

The Chairman of Dan-Air takes it on board.

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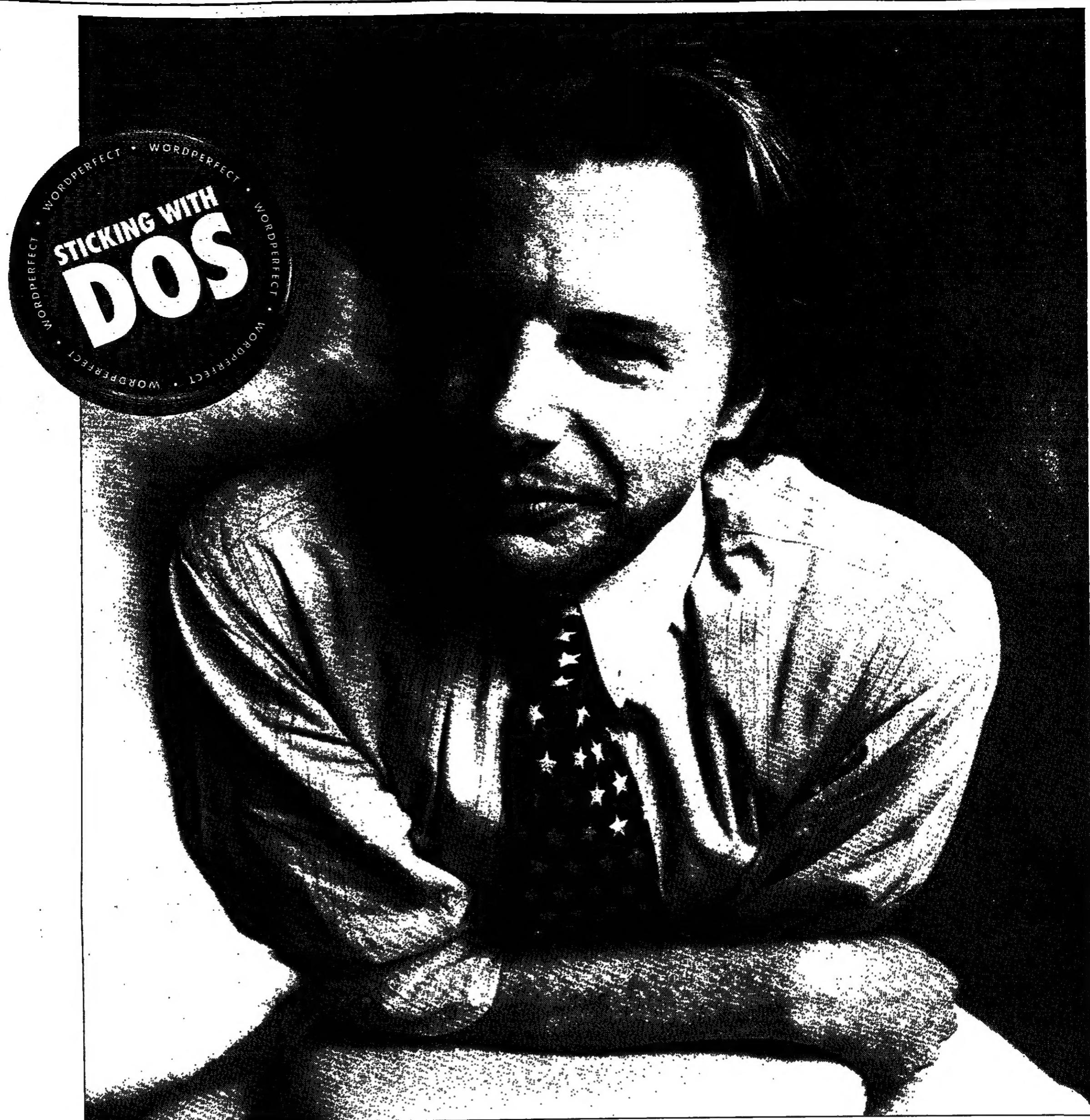
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West heaves sigh of relief as deputies in Moscow congress agree to pact over reforms

Compromise leaves Yeltsin on course

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S government last night brought sighs of relief from Western leaders and world financial markets by withdrawing its threat to resign and pronouncing itself satisfied by a compromise resolution on President Yeltsin's reforms endorsed by the supreme legislature.

"The reason for our resignation has been removed," said Aleksandr Shokhin, the deputy prime minister, after the conservative-dominated Russian congress voted by 578 to 203 on a text that mitigated its previous motion of censure. The apparent healing of the breach between the cabinet and the legislature should pave the way for Mr Yeltsin, who has kept out of public view since Friday, to return and preside in a spirit of relief, if not triumph, over the final sessions.

However, the government's victory was far from clearcut, and the vote left in place two contradictory decisions, so almost any faction was able to

claim some satisfaction. Mr Yeltsin indicated his approval of the compromise by telling Yegor Gaidar, the deputy prime minister and architect of a plan to transform the Russian economy to a market system, in a telephone conversation that he "fully supports the government and does not accept the resignation of the cabinet". The conversation was reported by Tass quoting government sources.

The new resolution reaffirms the decisions of last autumn's congress, under which Mr Yeltsin is given a virtually free hand in choosing ministers until December. But the opposition is expected to continue arguing that last Saturday's decisions, which would have obliged Mr Yeltsin to cede considerable power to parliament much sooner than that, remain valid.

At the urging of Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary chairman, parliament reaffirmed Saturday's wide-ranging censure of govern-

ment policy while adopting new language that substantially watered it down.

The government took satisfaction from the fact that the new resolution backs the need for economic reform and a market system, enjoins the public to show restraint and self-sacrifice, rules out a return to the command economy and acknowledges the need for financial discipline.

The resolution also acknowledges, in a key concession, that parliament's earlier recommendations of a much more generous social policy should be introduced, with account taken of current circumstances — which is open to almost any interpretation.

The situation was ambiguous enough for hardliners to be claiming that they had not suffered a defeat. Sergei Baburin, a Communist deputy and one of the leading activists in the conservative opposition, said: "There are no winners or losers in this battle."



Housewife heckler: a Muscovite berating Russian MPs on their way to the Congress yesterday, where they backed economic reforms

However, chunks of communist language have been dropped quietly from Russia's basic law, reflecting a reluctant admission of defeat by the hardline camp which can count on nearly half the votes in the 1,000-strong assembly. Despite the confused language approved by parliament, Western governments were expected to focus on the fact that Mr Gaidar seems to

be content with the compromise. Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury secretary, had told him on Tuesday that a promised Western credit line of \$24 billion (£13.6 billion) would be in doubt if responsible economic policies were abandoned.

Earlier yesterday there was depression in the conservative

opposition camp over its failure to rally deputies against the government at a time when economic reform is causing almost unbearable hardship. Vladimir Isakov, an ally of Mr Baburin, said that "the opposition has been unable to introduce radical changes in the course of the government".

Spanish strike threatens holidays

Madrid: A strike by hotel, restaurant and bar staff in mainland Spain and the Balearic islands called for today and tomorrow threatens to affect the Easter break for tens of thousands of British and European holidaymakers (Edward Owen writes).

The government, alarmed over Madrid's image during its fourth month as Europe's cultural capital, yesterday gave the cleaning companies and the unions 72 hours to go to binding arbitration.

Zomur, the Majorca-based association of Spanish tourist hotels, said yesterday that it had instructed its members to maintain minimum services and had asked for police protection from pickets who may try to stop non-union employees. Pedro Pascual, the association's secretary-general, said: "We do not think the strike will be widely followed."

Ruling deployed

Paris: Pierre Bérégovoy, France's prime minister, said he was "wounded" by an appeal court ruling that an order by Paul Touvier, wartime militia chief in Vichy, to execute Jews and synagogue leaders, was not a crime against humanity. (Reuters)

Schools closed

Rome: Schools throughout Italy closed a day early for the Easter holidays when 1.2 million teachers staged a one-day strike in pursuit of a 10 per cent pay rise. The government wants to keep a settlement to the 4.5 per cent rate of inflation. (Reuters)

Boycott sought

Brussels: Brigitte Bardot, above, who has long defended animal rights, called for a boycott of Expo '92 in Seville unless Spain takes immediate steps to end the killing of animals during the country's traditional holidays. (AFP)

Pope appeals

Rome: The Pope, at his weekly general audience, appealed for world leaders to help ease the suffering of the Iraqi people. The Baghdad government has blamed United Nations sanctions for causing widespread hunger and suffering. (Reuters)

Cold cuisine

Paris: The French eat out about three times a week and spend almost 20 per cent of their food budget in restaurants and canteens. But they drink less cheap wine, and eat five times more frozen convenience foods than they did in 1979. (Reuters)

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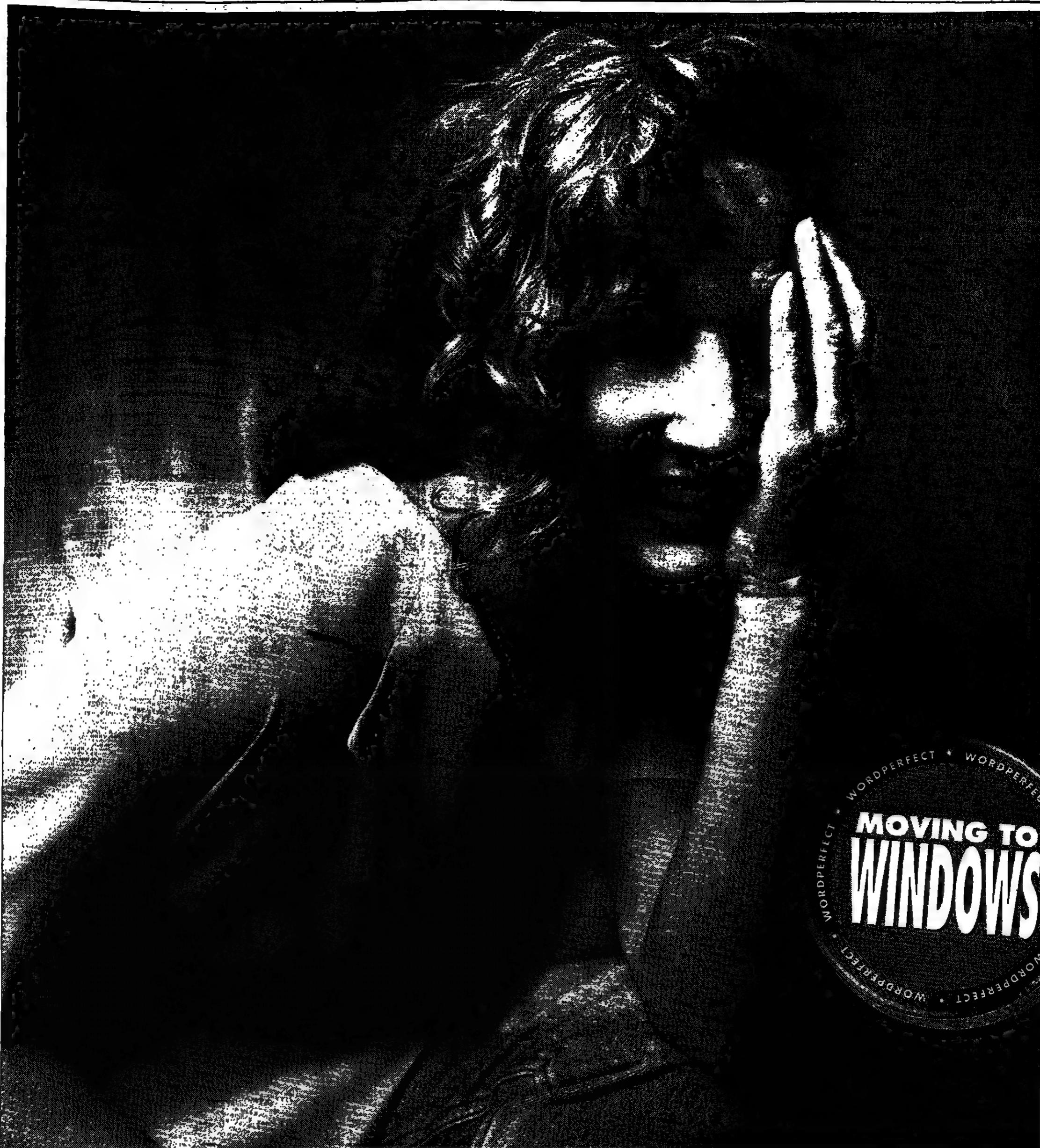
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West aims to isolate a defiant Serbia

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

THE Bush administration is consulting Britain and other European partners urgently on joint action to try to halt Serb incursions into Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Washington and its allies are aiming to achieve Serbia's international isolation unless it desists. To that end the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) has threatened to suspend Serbia's membership.

Arriving in Belgrade yesterday, Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, ruled out the dispatch of peace-keeping forces but appealed for an end to the fighting. "The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is very, very serious and is causing us great



concern," he said before meeting Serbia's military leaders and Slobodan Milosevic, the hardline communist president. "War is not the answer. It will be ruinous to all sides." The UN has been willing to deploy peacekeeping forces into trouble spots where a ceasefire was being

observed, but not with fighting still in progress. Members states have been determined that their troops should not become participants in conflicts they have been sent to resolve.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, met Haris Siladic, the Bosnian foreign minister, in Washington on Tuesday and was said to have been shaken by Mr Siladic's graphic descriptions of the "mass massacres" of innocent civilians by Serb forces. What was happening was "extraordinarily tragic and outrageous", Mr Baker said.

America has delivered what he called a "very strongly worded protest" to the Serb leadership. He called Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and other European governments this week to discuss joint action. The situation dominated a meeting between Lawrence Eagleburger, Mr Baker's deputy, and the immediate past, present and future presidents of the European Community, including Britain, in Washington on Tuesday. No country is prepared to send in troops instead they are exploring ways "to bring home to the Serbs that they are internationally isolated and condemned", said one official. The Serb assault followed formal American and EC recognition of Bosnian independence earlier this month. "Everyone feels a sense of responsibility," said the official, not least because Bosnia was now a sovereign state. America's intervention contrasts with its earlier willingness during Yugoslavia's violent disintegration to let the Europeans take the lead.

On Tuesday the State Department said the US "strongly supports the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina" and condemned its destabilisation by Mr Milosevic, the Yugoslav military and militant nationalist Serb leaders inside Bosnia.

British unit, page 20.

Germany flounders as drug trade soars

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

LEIPZIG is winning an unwelcome reputation as a cheap place to buy drugs, according to Dieter Gottschall, the city's deputy police chief. Giving statistics yesterday showing a steep rise in offences since unification, he said that there were virtually no resources to combat growing organised crime.

The number of reported fraud and robbery offences had risen by 170 per cent over the year and cases of wilful damage had soared by more than 400 per cent. Herr Gottschall was particularly worried about the potential growth of the drug market. Because eastern Germany was considerably poorer than western Germany, prices for heroin on the streets of Leipzig were half that in Frankfurt, he said.

"The number of drug offences in Saxony is lower than we originally thought, but it can only be a question of time before it starts rising. The

local point of police work is still prevention, but the first drug-related death was registered last year in Dresden."

Police say drugs are being brought over the border from Poland, where they suspect criminal groups have set up factories to supply western Europe. Police admit they are having no success in stopping drug smuggling. The federal criminal police, which runs the German anti-drug squad, last year seized 1.6 tonnes of heroin, double the amount in 1990 and six times the amount in the last year before the Berlin Wall came down.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has written to Poland and Russia asking for co-operation between the secret services of the three countries in the war against drug barons and international crime. Bernd Schmidbauer, a senior official from the Bonn chancellery, has been instructed to hold exploratory talks on the idea in Warsaw and Moscow.

British unit, page 20.



Prayer for peace: a Roman Catholic man and women from Listica in western Herzegovina praying while an air-raid siren alerts citizens to an attack. After more than a week of fighting thousands have left their homes

Man and madonna stilled Etna

A Tuscan-born vulcanologist has monitored the volcanic eruption since January, Paul Bompard writes

vulcanologist and professor who has masterminded the operation to prevent the lava engulfing Zafferana.

The townpeople gave thanks to Zafferana's patron protector over the centuries, the Madonna of Providence, who has comforted the town's inhabitants through a history marked by earthquakes, epidemics and volcanic eruptions. But they also gave thanks to an earthly saviour in the shape of Franco Barberi, the vul-

cano as "Beirut busters" built by the Americans of the nearby Nato base as anti-terrorist barriers. The platforms will then be tipped into the lava stream in the hope that the concrete blocks, heavily chained together, will form a plug in the stream of lava.

Signor Barberi, 53, is president of the National Vulcanological Group and chief consultant for the civil protection ministry. A native of Pisa in Tuscany, he has spent the past four months living in a cottage at 6,000ft on Etna. He has

monitored the eruption since it began in earnest in January, and was among the first to warn of the threat to Zafferana. Despite cautious optimism, often bordering on pessimism, the lava flow has stopped by itself. Some give the credit for this not to the professor but to the Madonna of Providence, a force as mysterious as the 1,000°C molten magma from the bowels of the earth.

Alfio Cantarella, 61, who in 1954 emigrated to Australia and in 1979 returned to farm a small pear, peach and cherry orchard just outside Zafferana, looked at the black wall of still warm lava as it stood on the very edge of his land, just singeing the trunks of the trees furthest uphill. "I was lucky, or perhaps it was thanks to the Madonna," he said, and looked grimly towards the black mass only a few yards uphill.

Gaullists demand European unity poll

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS CONTROVERSY grows over President Mitterrand's plan to push French ratification of the Maastricht treaty through parliament in the summer, the Gaullist RPR party said yesterday that it would fight for a decision to be put to a referendum.

Jacques Chirac, the president of the RPR, made it clear that the party would seek specific guarantees from Mitterrand before its members would consider a favourable response in the referendum it seeks. These concern the perceived threat to French sovereignty from the Maastricht provisions dealing with a single currency, votes for EC citizens in French local elections and common visa policies.

The hostility of France's largest opposition party to Mitterrand's decision to take the parliamentary route had been expected, although Mr Chirac is anxious to avoid coming down against the Maastricht treaty on principle. The RPR's campaign is likely to gather further support from the Communists, the extreme right-wing National Front and the Greens. A handful of ultra-nationalists in the other main conservative faction, the UDF, may also abandon its pro-European line.

Under the process outlined by Mitterrand, members of the national assembly and the senate will debate the constitutional issues and put forward joint bills to be debated at a combined special session of parliament in Versailles. If the required two-thirds majority is not achieved, the president intends only then to call a referendum.

But Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the pro-Europe head of the UDF and a former president, is adamant that, if parliament fails to agree, it is constitutionally not possible for the president to continue the fight.

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Jeff in 1984

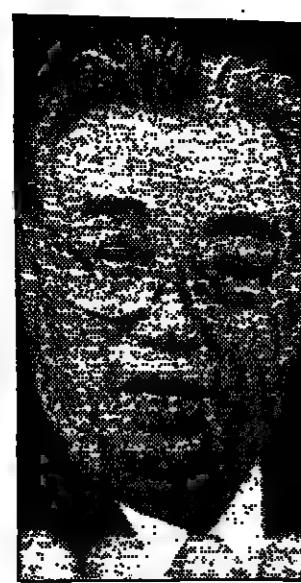


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Birthday banquet sweetens Kim's approach to America



Kim may return more American remains

KIM Il Sung, North Korea's Stalinist dictator, marked his 80th birthday yesterday with a conciliatory message to the United States in a newspaper interview. However, he also used the occasion to deliver a typically defiant anti-Western speech to his people.

Speaking at a gala banquet in Pyongyang, before the rigidly-controlled birthday celebrations got under way, President Kim told his people that despite the "gloating" of the West over the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, North Korea would remain on "the road of independence".

However, in a long interview with *The Washington Times*, a newspaper owned by Sun Myung Moon, the South Korean founder of the Unification Church, Mr Kim said he was eager to "bury the hatchet" with America. "There is spring between the people of our country and the people of the United States, spring begins."

He said he wanted an American embassy opened in North Korea as quickly as possible. To signal his good will, the "Great Leader", as he is known in North Korea, promised to send back to the United States more remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean war. "I think it

Kim Il Sung used his 80th birthday celebrations to signal that he is now ready to end North Korea's isolation. Jamie Detmer writes from Washington

the correct thing from the humanitarian point of view," he said.

President Kim's interview comes only a few days after North Korea outlined for the first time its nuclear reactor programme to the International Atomic Energy Agency and promised to allow international inspectors into its facilities. Washington, which fears that Mr Kim is pushing hard to develop a nuclear missile capability, has long demanded inspections of North Korea's nuclear instal-

lations. A senior State Department official said yesterday that Pyongyang was moving on the nuclear issue "faster than anyone believed possible, but slower than we would like".

North Korea's increasing international isolation since the fall of communist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was emphasised in dramatic form yesterday by the modest number of guests attending President Kim's birthday celebrations. The main guests were Yang Shangkun, China's aged president, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian leader who had lived in exile in Pyongyang for several years.

The gifts from the outside world for the Great Leader

were also less than overwhelming: a silk banner from Swapo, Namibia's ruling party, honorary citizenship from the Ivory Coast and a message of loyalty from one of North Korea's token parties.

China, Pyongyang's last big ally, came up with the most sensible gift for impoverished North Korea — hundreds of tonnes of pork.

President Kim also gave himself a further title to add to the string of epithets that North Koreans use when mentioning him. As well as the Great Leader, Beloved Leader, Ever Victorious Captain of the Korean People, the Greatest Genius Humankind Has Ever Had and Outstanding Leader of the Revolution, President Kim is now Generalissimo as well, a title fa-

voured by Latin American dictators.

During yesterday's celebrations in Pyongyang, which included a ceremony at the 60,000-seat Kim Il Sung stadium and dancing in the giant Kim Il Sung square, the Great Leader looked fit. Thousands of students performed gymnastics in the stadium and the crowds in the stands used lettered cards to produce revolutionary slogans and messages of praise for Mr Kim. Factories and offices were closed for the day, although shops remained open. North Korean officials said that many people during the day would visit the 35,000 or so Kim Il Sung statues littering the country.

State Department officials yesterday reacted cautiously

to President Kim's "bury the hatchet" message. They argue that North Korea, which was founded by President Kim in 1948, could become even more unpredictable as the Great Leader's son, Kim Jong Il, aged 50 and known as the Dear Leader, takes on more responsibility. The Dear Leader is seen in Washington as being at worst psychotic and at best just dangerous.

● Tokyo: North Korean state television aired a lengthy report on what it described as the country's experimental nuclear power plant at Yongbyon. Pyongyang says the plant is for non-military research. The United States, South Korea and Japan fear it is building a crude nuclear bomb. (Reuters)

Mujahidin capture air base near Kabul

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan has lost control of one of Afghanistan's principal air bases to renegade troops and mujahidin fighters, demonstrating that the military is starting to crumble and that Kabul itself is vulnerable. Russia has ordered most of its diplomats to evacuate immediately.

Mujahidin forces headed by Almas Shah Masood have secured their hold over the Bagram air base, just over 30 miles from the capital. Almost the entire northern half of the country has now fallen out of the government's control as soldiers, from generals to conscripts, continue to desert.

Other small mujahidin groups evidently shared in the conquest of Bagram, and different groups within the army divided their support among them. Mr Masood's forces, the most militarily effective of the many rebels, show no signs of preparing to attack the capital. Besides Bagram, they hold the nearby towns of Charikar and Jabal-us-Sara, taking them close to Kabul.

Afghanistan is now hovering between peace and chaos. Much depends on whether rival rebel groups can reach understanding among themselves. Deserting generals are making peace pacts with mujahidin commanders all over the country, aware that power is shifting decisively away from the present moribund Kabul regime. These pacts have brought peace across most of northern Afghanistan. Kabul is practically all that is left to fight over.

The city might be finished as a capital in any real sense. The country is evidently reverting to the patchwork of warlords and rival fiefdoms that it has historically almost always been. The power structure that eventually emerges in Kabul will almost certainly have limited jurisdiction over the rest of the country.

Mr Masood is not so well-equipped, but his forces are

more disciplined and have good supply lines from their stronghold in the northeast. Tajiks do not have the Pashtuns' historic reputation for plunder and destruction; indeed, Mr Masood's men have sent word to Kabul that the city's 1.8 million people have nothing to fear from him if he does attempt to enter the capital. Mr Heikmaya's officials have given similar assurances, if less convincingly. Perhaps the greatest danger is that the two groups, along with smaller rival factions, might fight over control of the city, bringing devastation.

Benon Sevan, the special United Nations envoy on Afghanistan, met mujahidin leaders in Pakistan yesterday to try to persuade them to let the UN peace plan go forward. It is obviously in deep trouble, and could be swept away in a mujahidin power struggle, leaving Afghanistan without any central authority. Mr Sevan is expected in Kabul shortly to assess the hope of saving the UN plan for installing a 15-man transitional ruling council in the capital to assume power from Mr Najibullah.

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The two principal power brokers in Afghanistan are now Mr Masood, a Tajik, and his mujahidin rival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Pashtun. Mr Hekmatyar, a fundamentalist, still has huge stocks of arms given to him by America, which ended military and economic aid on January 1. But he is not in absolute control of his men, who answer to individual commanders in the field.

Mr Masood is not so well-equipped, but his forces are

Queen of hotels jets off to jail

Charles Bremner finds little sympathy for the woman who dodged \$1.7 million in taxes

NEW YORK had a sardonic farewell yesterday to Leona Helmsley, the billionaire "hotel queen" who personified the greedy 1980s, as she jetted off on board her private Boeing to register at her new hotel, a federal prison in Kentucky.

The fun of extracting moral lessons from Helmsley's downfall was all the more acid for ordinary citizens because the court had ordered her to start her four-year sentence on April 15, the deadline for the filing of federal income tax returns. "Her crime was in believing her wealth and power set her above the law and exempted her from normal standards of decency," said New York's *Newsday*.

Helmsley, 71, was whisked by limousine from her Boeing 727 at Louisville and driven before dawn to the redbrick prison in a 30-acre park at Lexington, which houses women needing medical services. For at least two years, until she is eligible for parole, she will sleep in a dormitory and help in the housekeeping and other light chores. She will wear a blue uniform and have few possessions.

Though a far cry from her mansion or her penthouse on Central Park South, she will have access to television, a recreation room and playing fields and a telephone for 16 hours a day. In a last gesture, her hairdresser visited her penthouse to give her a short prison perm. She then said she was prepared to meet her fate.

Known, accurately or not, as the woman who once said "only the little people pay taxes", Helmsley is undoubtedly paying a price for casting herself in her own advertising in the 1980s as the epitome of the regal and demanding empress of the city's most luxurious hotels. Hers were the only establishments where "the queen stands guard", said the captain.

The city might be finished as a capital in any real sense. The country is evidently reverting to the patchwork of warlords and rival fiefdoms that it has historically almost always been. The power structure that eventually emerges in Kabul will almost certainly have limited jurisdiction over the rest of the country.



Clipped wings: Leona Helmsley, who flew to start a four-year sentence in a Kentucky prison yesterday

tion under the image of a tara-wearing Helmsley looking like an Americanized version of the British monarch. A property agent, she took on hotel management after marrying Harry Helmsley, the billionaire tycoon whose property includes the Empire State building, 20 years ago.

Helmsley won little sympathy by staging a two-year battle to stay out of prison which included employing a string of excuses and claims that she was being made a scapegoat. In a last-ditch court appeal on Tuesday,

Alan Dershowitz, the celebrity lawyer who represents her, evoked the Last Supper and offered to turn over her hotels to the poor and "solve New York's homeless problem single-handed".

The suggestion, quickly withdrawn by Mr Helmsley's company, prompted the tabloid press to round up the tramps and prop them towards the reception desk at the Helmsley Palace. "I wouldn't mind living in the penthouse," said one Dino DiAngelo. "Maybe then I could get a woman and have some fun by the pool." Newspapers likened the offer to Donald Trump's attempt to "buy" Mike Tyson out of his jail sentence.

Mr Dershowitz pleaded that Helmsley was being sentenced to death because she suffered from a heart condition. Mr Helmsley, who is 83 and was spared prosecution because he suffers from mental and physical infirmity, was also certain to die, he said. Mr Dershowitz, who also represented Tyson and earlier made his name winning the freedom of Claus Von Bulow, the socialite accused

of murdering his wife, still insists that Mrs Helmsley's evasion of \$1.7 million (£965,000) in taxes by declaring personal expenses as business costs was the fault of her accountant.

Trial testimony chronicling the opulent Helmsley way of life has entered New York folklore, among the vision of Helmsley frolicking Marie-Antoinette style, with pet lambs at her Connecticut mansion while an outdoor stereo system, charged as a business expense, wafted music across the swimming pool.

Japanese germ-war crimes 'ignored'

Tokyo: Japan's public television network has unearthed new evidence from Russian and American archives on how key members of the Japanese army's secret germ-warfare unit escaped prosecution as war criminals after the second world war.

The documents detailed experiments carried out by the Japanese on prisoners of war in Asia, such as deliberately infecting a prisoner with anthrax and conducting a surgical examination of the organs while the victim was still alive, NHK television said. The evidence, according to the programme, showed that the US military obtained data from the tests in exchange for shielding the perpetrators from prosecution at the 1946-1948 Tokyo war crimes tribunal.

NHK aired the documentary evidence this week in its series *Modern History Scoop*. (Reuters)

Beirut protests

Beirut: Lebanese cities were brought to a standstill by demonstrations calling for the dismissal of the government. Marchers said its corruption and excessive spending was causing economic difficulties. Schools, shops and offices stayed closed.

Business freed

Hanoi: Vietnam's National Assembly has approved an amended constitution that frees private business after decades of central economic planning. It also allows farmers the right to transfer and inherit land use, but not to own the land. (Reuters)

Evidence fails

Port Moresby: Robert John Suckling, an Australian-born former health minister of Papua New Guinea, has been acquitted of a 1989 murder after the presiding judge ruled that there were flaws in the way police handled scientific evidence. (Reuters)

Syrian pledge

Ankara: Syria, accused by Turkey of backing the separatist Kurdish Workers party, has promised to act against the group. Ismet Sezgin, the Turkish interior minister, said in Damascus, Syria had offered to provide a list of the guerrillas. (Reuters)

Death threats

Port-au-Prince: Monique Thebaud, director of Haiti's central bank, says she has received death threats warning her to keep silent about the disappearance of \$2.5 million (£1.4 million) in a deal with Norgulf, a Texas-based oil firm. (AFP)

HIV spreads

Hanoi: At least 57 people in Vietnam were infected with HIV, which causes AIDS, by the end of last year, up from 41 in December 1990, the *Nhan Dan* newspaper said. Most are Thai fishermen. No AIDS cases have been reported. (Reuters)

Woman spared

Vernon, Connecticut: A woman has received probation for shooting her fiancée in the chest after he abruptly cancelled their wedding after invitations had been printed. The judge said it was unlikely that Carrie Mote, 47, would act violently again. (AP)

Keep it clean

Jerusalem: Mordechai Elihu, the chief rabbi of Israel, has ruled that because the American dollar bears the motto "In God We Trust", the notes must be treated like holy documents and kept in pockets when in an unclear place. (Reuters)

Israeli undercover squad's tactics come under fire

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

WHEN Philip Jones and Alish Canwell exchanged life in the southeast of England for the Israeli-occupied West Bank, they had few illusions about living in the midst of a frequently ugly Arab-Israeli conflict.

But several months of exposure to the eruptions of violence that punctuate life in Hebron did little to prepare them for the sight of a Palestinian youth being shot down by an Israeli undercover unit. "It was just like watching something off TV," said Miss Canwell.

The two volunteers were returning home late on March 29. They watched from the shadows as a masked youth ran up to a blue van that had just been stoned. "He came up around the side to the driver's window and hesitated for a moment," Miss Canwell said. "He ran across in front of the van to a wasteground behind a school. And as he was running he was shot down."

The shots came from a group of soldiers, disguised in traditional Palestinian women's costume, who burst out of the van as the youth fled.

Colony prefers Patten

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

because of these special squads," he said. "The real reason they are being killed is because they are using arms."

The youth from Hebron, Issam Ghaiti, survived, despite being shot in the head and back. Jamal Rashid Ghaniem, aged 22, from the village of Shuveileh, near Tulkarem, was less fortunate. Neither was armed. Ghaniem was killed shortly after taking a corner kick during a football match, in full view of fellow players and spectators. Military sources say he was shot trying to flee, after being warned to stop. They say Mr Ghaiti had tried to attack the driver of the van.

The army's rules for arresting suspects state that he must first be ordered to stop and that shots can be fired in the air. Only if he then continues to flee can soldiers open fire, and then only at the legs. But Mr Jones and Miss Canwell challenge the official version of Mr Ghaiti's shooting, while those playing football with Ghaniem say he was deliberately killed. His body had three bullet wounds in the back, and two others, in the chest and forehead.

Martin Ivens, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Winnie Mandela forced to quit as ANC welfare chief

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela's decline and fall gathered momentum yesterday when she was compelled to resign as head of the African National Congress's social welfare department, her most important office.

Defiant to the last, she protested that she did not commit the violent crimes that have been alleged against her and blamed her downfall on those who wished to destroy her and discredit the ANC. She was speaking at a news conference two days after Nelson Mandela, her husband and president of the ANC, announced that they were separating. An ANC official said that questions would not be permitted. If you ask questions, you will be ignored," he said.

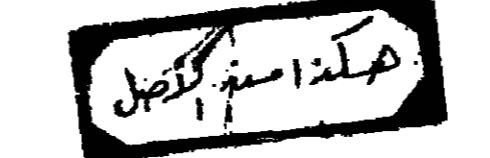
Mrs Mandela spoke of her devotion and loyalty to her husband and the ANC throughout the years of her persecution by apartheid governments, and said she remained committed to the welfare of the oppressed and impoverished people of South Africa. She made no reference to her split with Mr Mandela beyond saying: "My husband has been the

those who wish to destroy me and to discredit the ANC. Their campaign of vilification has created a difficult situation for the ANC, my husband as its president, and

"In view of all these considerations, I have asked the ANC to relieve me of my duties as head of the department of social welfare."

She claimed she had been dissuaded by close comrades from resigning earlier. But ANC sources said she had been under intense pressure from the executive committee, of which she remains nominally a member, to quit her welfare post.

False allegations and "perverse remarks" had been intended to weaken the ANC, she said. Referring to her conviction last year on kidnapping and assault charges, she added: "I have always maintained my innocence, and there is an appeal pending. My request that the matter should be left in the hands of the courts has not only been ignored, but appears to fuel the desire of



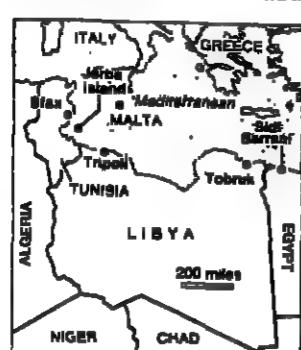
Effect of UN action will not be felt for two years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

SANCTIONS imposed on Libya yesterday were primarily of psychological rather than practical effect, and it is likely to take two years before they may cause more than inconvenience.

Arab neighbours rallied to help Colonel Gaddafi find land and sea routes to circumvent the air embargo which most Islamic governments (with the possible exception of Iran) were expected to enforce. Italy sent up warplanes to warn off an attempted overflight by Libyan Arab airlines.

In Egypt, extra security and immigration personnel were sent the land border, which was reopened last year after a long dispute. Arrangements were made for a shuttle bus service between refurbished provincial airports at Tobruk in Libya and Sidi Barrani on the Egyptian coast. In Cairo's Ataba



Arab fear of oil ban grows

From JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations sanctions against Libya which came into effect yesterday are likely to remain in force for a long time, but are not thought to threaten the Libyan regime.

Diplomats at UN headquarters said Libya would find it very difficult to convince the UN Security Council to lift the sanctions because of the vague wording of the resolution imposing them. "The problem is the escalation of sanctions," said one Arab diplomat.

Arab governments fear that Britain and the United States may seek UN oil embargo if Libya fails to surrender two intelligence agents wanted for the Lockerbie bombing.

"That's obviously something that could be considered for the future," Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in a BBC interview yesterday. But he said that it was "not part of the present plan".

To have the sanctions lifted, Libya must turn over the two suspects to stand trial in Britain or America and co-operate with a French investigation into an attack on a French-owned airliner over Niger in 1988. It must also take unspecified "concrete actions" to renounce terrorism. Britain, France and America — who can veto any relaxation of sanctions — have drawn up a long shopping list of what they require. Their demands include full information about Libya's support for the IRA.

The security council met yesterday to set up a sanctions sub-committee chaired by Hungary to monitor the arms and air embargo. Diplomats said the committee would hear applications for humanitarian exceptions.

Opposition groups pose little threat

OPPOSITION groups are trying to present themselves as credible alternatives to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, if he falters under the international pressure now being brought to bear on him. But the evidence of their past history and present bickering does not augur well.

The National Front for the Salvation of Libya, the leading opposition party, headed by Muhammad Yusuf al-Magarief, begins its third national congress in Dallas, Texas, tomorrow. Formed in October 1981, the front has never quite recovered from its premature action in April 1984 when its military wing misread as a signal for a coup attempt the Western antipathy to Colonel Gaddafi after

Bickering among Libya's opposition does not bode well for any takeover from Colonel Gaddafi. Andrew Lycett writes

the murder of Yvonne Fletcher, a woman police officer, in London. Known as the Libyan National Army, the military wing has close links with the United States, where it is maintained as a quasi-Counterforce, more threat than realistic fighting outfit.

The front's political remains amorphous, part Western liberalism, part Islam. To counter recent defections, it promises a new political programme in Dallas.

At the front's centre is Major Abdel-Moneim al-Houni, Colonel Gaddafi's former foreign minister, who fled to

where he has been joined by defectors from the national front. Unlike the front, however, the brotherhood has been low key in its political pronouncements. But a measure of its importance is that 500 Muslim political activists are in Libyan prisons.

A bit player on the opposition platform is the Manchester-based Libyan Constitutional Union, headed by Muhammad al-Ghalib. The union maintains close ties with the mainly exiled Libyan royal family and has championed the cause of Crown Prince Hassan al-Senussi, who lives in London.

A new group, the Libyan Front of Democratic Forces, recently began issuing statements from Tripoli, but remains an unknown quantity.



Raids remembered: Libyan children wearing black scarves to mourn their parents, who were killed in the American bombing of Tripoli six years ago. But unlike the angry anti-American demonstrations of 1986 following the attacks, the mood yesterday was one of despair

Traders await next turn of the screw

THE mood in Tripoli's main souk yesterday was one of despair rather than defiance. Absent from the Libyan capital were the angry demonstrators that became a daily occurrence during the country's confrontation with the United States in 1986. Instead, merchants began to worry about their business slipping away with the imposition of United Nations sanctions.

Trade at the souk off Green Square in central Tripoli remained brisk. Air sanctions mostly affect foreign travellers; businessmen drive in their goods from Tunis and Egypt. Stalls in the labyrinthine market place did a busy trade in cheap Tunisian cloth and goods from Cairo. Women tried on gold bracelets and necklaces.

This trade is fairly recent. Until 1988, imports were strictly monitored and most stalls in the souk were shuttered. The universal theory from Colonel Muammar

Gaddafi's "Green Book" is "partners not wage-earners", prohibiting employment as a form of slavery, remained in force. But business has burgeoned since 1988, when Colonel Gaddafi personally drove a tractor into custom posts on the borders with Tunisia and Egypt and announced the frontiers were open. Traders now import as much merchandise they want with no difficulty.

Yesterday, merchants and customers gossiped in the sunshine about what would happen next. They had been hopeful in the past few days that a compromise would be found over the United Nations' resolution demanding that Colonel Gaddafi surrender the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie

bombing or face air, arms and diplomatic sanctions. Now the fear is that Libya will return to isolation.

"We are waiting for the next turn of the screw," said Khled, who sells colourful Tunisian silk cloth from a small cubicle. He and others are worried that the sanctions which partly grounded Libyan planes yesterday and resulted in Italy, Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Japan expelling Libyan diplomats will be followed by more severe restrictions, such as an embargo on Libyan oil, the country's main source of income.

There is a strong feeling among Libyans, both officials and private citizens, that their country has been unfairly singled out for punishment.

ment. "The West wants Gaddafi's head," one Libyan said. "This problem has nothing to do with Lockerbie. Nobody thinks about the people here. Libyans just want a peaceful life."

Few in Libya believe the American and British demand for the surrender of the two Libyans is fair. "If Libya asked to extradite two American citizens, do you think the world would back us like this?" a Libyan businessman asked yesterday.

However, many people are fed up with Libya's involvement in actions that bring Western condemnation.

They feel Colonel Gaddafi has once more got them involved in something which is not in the country's best interests. Privately and quietly, understandable given the large numbers of secret police on the streets, many Libyans agonise about how Libya could be a rich country with tourists bringing in foreign currency if only they had a different regime.

Libya has about three million citizens and exports about one million barrels of oil daily. Most of the income goes to the military and revolutionary causes around the world.

There is little chance this grumbling will go any further than the dark back rooms of souk stalls, where it is offered over cups of sweet tea. But Colonel Gaddafi hears the ripples of dissatisfaction and since the Lockerbie bombing he has increased the power of the revolutionary committees, comprising of young men raised on his slogans. In recent months they have even gained sway in the military, probably the only likely provenance of any move against the Libyan leader.

He knows the form all too well: Colonel Gaddafi plotted the coup that brought him to power in 1969 while he was a young colonel in the Libyan army.

Marie Colvin is on the staff of *The Sunday Times*

Many carriers stand to lose business

Tripoli: More than two dozen foreign airlines operate scheduled services to Libya, which yesterday came under a United Nations Security Council air embargo.

The national carrier, Libyan Arab Airlines, operates from Libya's two international airports at Tripoli and Benghazi, and 10 smaller civilian airports, which handle domestic flights only.

The list of foreign carriers includes the following Arab airlines: Air Algérie, Tunis Air, Royal Air Maroc, Egypt Air, Royal Jordanian, Syrian Arab Airlines, Middle East Airlines and Sudan Airways. European: Air Malta, KLM, Lufthansa, Olympic Airways, Swissair, Alitalia, Aeroflot, Bulgarian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Romanian, Turkish, and Yugoslav carriers. Others: Biman of Bangladesh, Korean Air and Pakistan International Airlines.

Libyan Arab Airlines flies to the following cities: Accra, Alexandria, Cairo, Algiers, Amman, Amsterdam, Athens, Belgrade, Brussels, Budapest, Casablanca, Damascus, Dubai, Frankfurt, Jeddah, Karachi, Khartoum, Larnaca, Madrid, Malta, Moscow, Niamey, Nouakchott, Paris, Prague, Rome, Sofia, Tunis, Vienna, Warsaw, Zurich. (Reuters)



Grounded: planes standing idle on the tarmac at Tripoli airport after the imposition of sanctions

Russian military advisers to leave

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RUSSIA is to withdraw hundreds of military experts helping the Libyan army, the Russian embassy in Tripoli said yesterday.

"We asked the advisers to prepare their luggage in anticipation for the departure home," a spokesman for the embassy said. He added that there were about 1,500 advisers and 350 dependents.

A later report from Moscow said that some advisers had begun flying home, and that former Soviet diplomats were expected to follow soon.

Since the beginning of the 1970s, after Colonel Muammar Gaddafi came to power, Russia has been Libya's main supplier of arms and military experts. The United Nations sanctions designed to force Libya to surrender two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing impose a ban on arms sales and the providing of military training to Libya.

The spokesman said the date for the departure of advisers and their families would be set after the necessary arrangements had been made. "We will try to do it without causing any inconvenience for them," he said.

The possibility of special flights is now under consideration and this will need consultations with the UN security council."

Russia said on Tuesday it would abide by the sanctions and would remove the advisers gradually.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, a spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry, said yesterday he did not know when Libyan diplomats — whose exact number was not known — would leave Moscow.

A duty officer at the Libyan embassy in Moscow said no officials were available to comment on the departures, but said the officials would be working today.

At Moscow's sole international airport, Sheremetyevo 2, the only scheduled flight yesterday to Tripoli was postponed until today. There was no unusual activity at the airport.

Libyan payments on its debt to Russia, estimated at about \$3.5 billion (£2 billion), are likely to stop soon.



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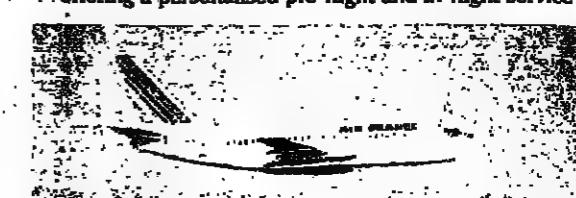
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AIR FRANCE

The China syndrome

Martin Ivens on the last governor of Hong Kong

The material rewards on offer to the 28th and last governor of Hong Kong are beyond the most avaricious dreams of Westminster: a £150,000 salary, palatial offices, a country residence, a Rolls, a yacht. There is, however, a catch. If chaos follows the lowering of the flag on June 30, 1997, the reputation of the last governor will be forever buried in obliquity.

The new governor will bear an awesome responsibility for handing over, against its wishes, a free community, thriving under capitalism, to a Communist dictatorship. Until then he must avoid being seen as a lame duck. That is, however, a catch. If chaos follows the lowering of the flag on June 30, 1997, the reputation of the last governor will be forever buried in obliquity.

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If only symbolically, there is a strong case for a Hong Kong governor used to being accountable for his executive decisions. We the people, through our representative, should be directly involved in such an important event. A faceless civil servant, however well qualified, would be seen by Westminster as a poor substitute.

In any case, yet another Foreign Office sinologist, from the ranks of the officials who devised the 1984 agreement to terminate British rule, would be viewed with suspicion by Hong Kong Chinese democrats. Sir Percy Cradock, formerly ambassador to Peking and the prime minister's outgoing co-ordinator of intelligence, is their *bête noire*. He is said to have shaken his head sadly at Mrs Thatcher for contemplating standing up for Hong Kong. "I'm afraid the Chinese won't wear it, prime minister."

John Major's trip to Peking last year to mend fences with the post-Tiananmen regime was widely considered an exercise in kowtowing, until Mr Major, with a true politician's instinct, departed from schedule by asking questions about human rights violations.

Already the going is tough. Lord Wilson, the present incumbent, soon to take his seat in the House of Lords, has taken a terrible buffeting. He was damned by the press for his part in negotiating the 1984 agreement with the Chinese, and damned by Peking for a pressing ahead with a new airport after the killing in Tiananmen Square. His predecessor, Sir Edward Youde, died in office, and is said to have been killed by the pressures of the job.

A new governor must convince Hong Kong liberals by his firmness with Peking that everything is being done to help them. He must reassure the plutocracy that the capitalist merry-go-round will continue. But he must also persuade Peking that democracy in Hong Kong will not damage its interests. Behind this sympathetic facade, he must advance London's real interests. He needs to be honourable but two-faced. Diplomats are often very good at this, but a top notch politician is far better.

Mountbatten was the most famous disposer of this school, chosen by Attlee's government to be viceroy of India. Although he had no party background, his royal connections gave him the necessary clout. He was very good at putting up a front. When independence came to India in 1947, General Ismay summarised popular feeling: British and Indian, about Mountbatten in a letter to his chief: "It is the greatest personal triumph for you and Edwina in modern times." Within months, the massacres following partition had made Mountbatten many lifelong enemies. Although several historians have vindicated his policy, Mountbatten was vilified for his speed in liquidating the British Raj.

Comparing Mountbatten's work in the cauldron of India to the difficulties faced by the British liquidator of Hong Kong, Mountbatten's biographer Philip Ziegler has dismissed the coming task as a mere "parish pump affair". Perhaps; but perhaps not.

Perhaps after 1997 the Chinese government will forbear to kill the capitalist goose that lays the golden eggs. Perhaps communism will be swept away as gently as it was in Eastern Europe two years ago. But the massacre in Tiananmen Square was an awful warning to those who believe that history has smoothly come to an end. The man with the ostrich plumed pith-helmet must be strong enough to be Hong Kong's scapegoat as well as its hero.

Peter Riddell wonders if the leadership contest can produce a man who will defeat the Tories

Little Labour love lost

A WEEK IN POLITICS

Nothing has illustrated Labour's current predicament so clearly as the manner of the leadership bids. John Smith, confident of success, was uninspiring and cautious in making his announcement, but hours later, the outsider, Bryan Gould, was fresh and outspoken. Only Mr Gould has so far faced up to Labour's dilemma: "One more leave may have been the right response to our 1987 defeat. It is a wholly inadequate response to our 1992 defeat. We cannot simply change the face at the top and expect to win in 1996 on the programme on which we lost in 1992." That is the right question, even if his answers so far have been vague and contradictory. By contrast, Mr Smith, while looking a leader, talked almost complacently of Labour being in a "strong position" after the election.

Pulling together may be preferable to the bitter infighting of 1979-81, but not as a means of avoiding unpleasant lessons. Mr Kinnock's legacy is a Labour party strong enough to survive

but not strong enough to win. Labour's share of the vote was 25 per cent above its 1983 level, when it needed to rise by half for victory. Attacks by the Tory tabloids and the tacky triumphalism of the Sheffield rally did not help, but they do not explain why, during a deep recession, there are only as many Labour MPs as there were after the 1979 defeat, or why the party's vote was its lowest, apart from 1983 and 1987, since 1931.

All this does not mean that Labour can never win — similar doom-laden predictions after its 1959 loss were soon contradicted — but four defeats in a row is more than bad luck.

Social changes are a partial explanation. The old working class of council house tenants and union members, employed in manufacturing, living in Scotland, Wales and northern England, and loyal to Labour

has been declining steadily. But the expanding new working class, who have bought their homes, may own shares, who do not belong to unions and work in services, and who live outside the old industrial centres, are not inevitably Tories. While Labour has a smaller core base, fewer voters are committed to any party nowadays.

What matters is that Labour appears outdated. It seems too tied to the unions, too committed to collective solutions involving higher taxes. That seems to conflict with survey findings which show that the public supports higher spending on education and health rather than tax cuts, but in practice the public may prefer the mix of the

two which the Tories have offered since 1979.

The collapse of communism has also weakened the case for democratic socialism, however different it may be from the Soviet system. Individualism and free markets seem to be the wave of the moment. Parties to the left of centre have been in retreat throughout Europe, notably in Sweden. France and Italy. Even where a ruling right-of-centre party has run into trouble, as in Germany, nationalists and other groups have benefited, rather than socialists. The American Democrats have thrived locally and control Congress, but have won the presidency only once since 1964.

Under Mr Kinnock, Labour has changed substantially, in at least partially, coming to terms with markets, dropping unilateralism and embracing the EC. But Labour has become a European social democratic party just as that model has become outmoded.

Labour now needs to go further by ceasing to be a party of producer interests. The unions may supply most of its money and act as a bastion against extremism, but they are now an electoral millstone. The silence of union leaders during the election contrasts with their clumsy manoeuvring since then.

The party also has to re-examine the way it presents redistributive policies. Many of the public saw through the clumsy slight-of-hand of the shadow budget, with its promise that eight out of ten people would benefit. Expanded public services and redistribution mean higher taxes for all.

Talk of a realignment of the left is premature. The Liberal Democrats have reacted calmly to the election in view of how

battered they were only three years ago. But any hopes of replacing Labour have been ended. Paddy Ashdown knows that all he can do in the short term is to keep quiet and watch Labour. An electoral pact with Labour would probably drive many Lib Dem supporters over to the Tories. But Labour and the Lib Dems need at least to talk, and will probably discuss electoral reform.

Mr Smith seems unlikely to address many of these issues directly. As the frontrunner, he does not want to make unnecessary advance commitments. But while that is tactfully understandable, it is a misleading of Labour's situation. Mr Smith has many qualifications to be Labour leader. He is competent, shrewd, and a strong Commons debater, while Mr Gould's political judgment has at times been shaky and is not trusted by many colleagues. However certain the outcome, the advantage of Mr Gould's candidacy is that it forces into the open questions about Labour's future that need to be asked.

Going for fool's gold

The modern Olympics corrupt ideals of sportsmanship and encourage cheating and commercialism, says Bernard Levin

Will the world never learn? I have, after all, been trying to teach it for several decades, with, as far as I can see, not so much as a dent in the world's thick and ungrateful hide. Moreover, in the matter I shall discuss today, it has even less excuse than usual, for mine is a theme to which I regularly return every four years, with good but melancholy reason. This time I beg you to pay attention to my quadrennial cry, which is: *No good can ever come of the Olympics*.

No good has ever come of the Olympics. As far back as 416 BC there was a monumental row, when Alcibiades walked out after achieving a colossal victory. Despite the plausible announcement that he would never compete again, because the plebeian quality of the contestants had fallen so far that no gentleman would mingle with such riff-raff. The Olympics Committee stood firm, and Alcibiades slung his hook. (He went on to encompass the ruin of Athens; the tragic Sicilian Expedition was largely his idea, and he made such a noise about it that the quiet voices, who foresaw what would happen, could not be heard. Did I not say that no good can come of the Olympics?)

There are still three months to go, and already the uproar has started, and started, moreover, in so remote a corner of the battlefield that when the real yelling and screaming begins it promises a nonpareil uproar.

Spain has recently produced a remarkable number of great tenors, but everybody knows that where there are tenors there are troubles as the sparks fly upwards. This trouble arose because Alfredo Kraus (what kind of a Spaniard can a man with a surname like that be?) was originally left out of the musical merry-merry that is to

precede the dreadful business of running and jumping. The merry-merry in question was in the hands of José Carreras, who had already roped in Plácido Domingo, as well he might, whereupon Kraus declared that he had suffered "great lack of respect and consideration", and was minded to take his hoop, his drum and his skipping-rope and go home.

It was all patched up,

though it may well blow

open again before kick-off,

and I am offering six to

four that it will. But if such

shenanigans can break out over nothing more substantial than who sings *Nessun dorma*, just imagine the mayhem that is going to be flooding the entire enterprise with the real work of cheating, fighting, abusing, walking out, complaining, demanding, spiking, poison-penning, fornicating, racial-slurring and bribing.

In my youth, no fewer than 11

Olympics ago, I was in the

stands at the White City, where

the 1948 Olympics were held;

it was one of the foot-races, and

just as one of the British runners

(who was doing very well) came

abreast of the stand in which

I was cheering on the home

team, I clearly saw some bloody

foreigner give our boy a deliberate

and forceful shove, which

made him stagger to the side

of the track and half-stumble;

he gallantly returned to his

lane, but by then he had lost

so much ground that his chance

had gone.

From that day on, I knew

that the Olympics constituted a

Bad Thing, and that the good,

generous Baron Coubertin who

had (with his own money) re-

started the business after so

many centuries would achieve

the exact opposite of his in-

tent, which was to bring

harmony and friendship to the

nations.

Baron Coubertin's vision of the modern Games has failed to revive the spirit of fair play

Some hope. Already ETA (the Spanish equivalent of the IRA) have promised disruption; such people are quite capable of setting bombs in the stadium, and I am not trying to make flesh creep; there was mass murder at the Munich Olympics of 1972, and terrorism has greatly advanced in skill and weaponry since then. But even if no such tragedy befalls, there will be plenty of grim comedy before the day is over.

Just think for a moment about

the rigorous drug-testing the

athletes must undergo (well, not

so rigorous if they can find a

crooked doctor or two). Does it not demonstrate the corruption that has eaten away the entire Olympic ideal? Alcibiades might have thought himself above *hol politoi*, but none of the competitors in his day sought artificial aids to bolster their prowess, and that remained true through the early years of the revived Games; it is only in recent years that the games have appeared and spread. And don't forget that the original Games were not merely games.

There was a powerful element of spiritual content in the proceedings, and no athlete would have taken his place at the starting-line without having made libations.

If the need for drug-tests began the decline, professionalism and advertising have finished it. The whole point and purpose of the Games, as they were twice conceived, was to test the human body and will to the limit, with no other consideration, least of all a monetary one.

I have a recollection of Christopher Chataway which fits that template. When the White City Stadium was being pulled down (naturally to have something much uglier put up), he was interviewed there, reminiscing

until further notice on the orders of HM Government.

However, the government appeared to be in some confusion over who exactly is responsible for enforcing the sanctions. The Department of Trade and Industry referred enquires to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The FCO said it was up to the Home Office to enforce the law. The Home

Office might one day have controlled. Initially all went well, with an avuncular Kinnock playing the part of a future spymaster well.

Towards the end, however, the joker inside the Labour leader could be restrained no longer. So relaxed had he become that Kinnock proceeded to crack a series of inappropriate jokes about how he had better watch what he said in the "nest of spies".

Hardy Amis

SIR KINGSLEY AMIS, 70 today, put on a bravura performance at his birthday bash at the Savoy yesterday. Apparently he wanted to say grace before the lunch in his honour, but his publishers, fearing insult to non-Christians, deemed it not a good idea. Not to be thwarted, Amis insisted instead on making his speech before the meal. Then he ordered the toastmaster to declare a loyal toast to round off the event — forcing all and sundry, including his son Martin, Labour supporter and republican, to stand and raise a glass to the monarchy.

After 40 years with Covent Garden, Sir Edward Downes, who conducted the premiere of Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel* on Tuesday night to acclaim from a catholic audience including Lesley Crowther and Lord Sterling, Ruby Wax and Bernard Haitink, is already turning his attentions to his next and most ambitious project. The Royal Opera board is about to agree plans for a festival under his baton, including all 24 Verdi operas, to be staged at Covent Garden in the run-up to the centenary of the composer's death in 2001. The idea is that four will be produced each year, starting next season with a new production of *Stiff Little Fingers* with José Carreras.



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

One day last week, a friend rang with the odd and urgent news that Danny la Rue was being interviewed by Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* on the subject of the general election. No, she said, she didn't think that it was a comedy turn, some sort of light relief from a month of heavy election talk: she was pretty sure that Danny la Rue was being asked for his views and predictions in all seriousness.

I rushed to the television. There, as usual, was Jeremy Paxman, raised eyebrows at the ready. But his interviewee was not, alas, Danny la Rue. It was my old friend the distinguished opinionator Sir Peregrine Worsthorne. This rather more commonplace casting came, I must admit, as something of a disappointment.

My friend's mistake was, in retrospect, perfectly forgivable. Danny la Rue — particularly when out of women's clothing — and Sir Peregrine Worsthorne look rather alike, particularly in the backward quirk that decorates their shared hairstyle. A comparative stranger to the worlds of political commentary and light entertainment might be forgiven for being unable to distinguish between them.

Noticing facial resemblances is something of a hobby of mine, amounting almost to an affliction. In the past, I myself have been a victim of mistaken identity far more grievous than Sir Peregrine suffered the other night. I was once walking confidently to a lunch at the offices

to work one morning and struggled in the manager of Safeway's to preside over an editorial meeting, but the logistics were too complicated and we never got it off the ground.

Some people seem to represent the missing link between two celebrities. My wife thinks that the owner of a local pub looks like Michael Caine, but a friend of ours swears that the same man looks exactly like Ronnie Corbett. Oddly enough, both of them, the victim of the lookalike phenomenon, were the late John Stonehouse, whose apprehension in Australia, came about solely because the Australian police were convinced that he was the fugitive Lord Lucan, even going so far as to tele to Scotland Yard asking the correct way to address an en-

cybernetic. The Downing Street insists that no formal decision has been taken, but Lamont himself is stoical. One of his aides said: "The Chancellor has No. 11 Downing Street, so he accepts that he is not entitled to a country house." But this does not really hold water. Douglas Hurd, for example, has an official residence as Foreign Secretary at Carlton Terrace in London, as well as Chevening, near Sevenoaks.

The argument over Downing Street does not, however, rest on the fact that the house is the country retreat of William Whitelaw while he was Home Secretary and later leader of the Lords. When Whitelaw retired, Mrs Whitelaw gave the mansion to Nigel Lawson, her Chancellor, as a reward for his "economic miracle". The Downing Street question was further complicated by Sir Geoffrey Howe's tenure. After he was removed as Foreign Secretary and had to leave Chevening, he was given the tenancy of Downing Street as a consolation. Lamont, however, first entertained hopes of moving into the rent-free mansion, set in 214 acres of land tended by the National Trust, when he became Chancellor after Major's election as party leader. Instead the house was given to Kenneth Baker, the



SPEAKING FREELY

On April 27, the newly-elected House of Commons will go to the Lords, there to receive the sovereign's commission to elect a Speaker. The candidate they choose is carried unwillingly to the chair. This ancient ritual is a reminder that, historically, the job has been no secure. At least nine Speakers are known to have died violent deaths defending the prerogatives of Parliament.

This display of reluctance is an anachronism. Neither the Crown nor the executive would today dare directly to challenge the authority of Parliament, or to threaten the Speaker. The job has become an attractive one, bringing to successful occupants the respect of their peers and the affection of the nation as a star of broadcast proceedings. So far have things changed since the beheading days that, in 1992, leading candidates are openly campaigning for the job. Yesterday, Betty Boothroyd, a strong Labour contender, was said to be determined to stand even if a Conservative is nominated.

The ritual still serves as a reminder of the nature of the Speaker's duty. The Speaker owes allegiance only to the Commons. He or she must fulfil that duty without compromise with the convenience of government. The executive finds Parliament a nuisance. Parliament's procedures obstruct legislation. Its committees question ministerial judgment. Ministers naturally hanker after a Speaker who will protect them. No recent Speaker has been free from the carping of the whips' office, whose convenience they have generally refused to serve.

In 1983, Margaret Thatcher brought all these issues to a head when she appeared to offer the job, first to Francis Pym, then to Humphrey Atkins, as it were yet another government slot to fill. Parliament would have none of it. MPs insisted on appointing Bernard Weatherill. He justified the wisdom of their choice, both by acting independently of the Tory whips and managing the transition to a televised Commons.

PERILS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The choice of a new Governor for Hong Kong is anything but peripheral to British political life. The colony is to be handed over to China in 1997, essentially within the life time of this Parliament. Its people, most of whom fled Chinese communism to make new lives under a free-wheeling but law-based capitalism, have not been consulted. They have, however, been promised by both Britain and China that they will be free for at least a further 50 years under the system that has made Hong Kong a prosperous magnet for reformers within China itself.

The Governor who takes over from Lord Wilson must make that promise credible, or preside over local turmoil and a massive exodus of refugees and bare much of the international opprobrium for betraying the freedoms for which British democracy stands. The password to success, contained in the 1984 Sino-British Declaration on Hong Kong's future, is "autonomy". John Major's choice should be determined by that word, with all that means for extending the local scope for self-government and the reiteration, indeed strengthening, of civic and commercial freedom.

Mr Major has been urged by Lord Wilson, an admirable but ultimately conventional product of Foreign Office Sinology with all its emphasis on London-Peking relations, to choose an individual with close knowledge of China and Hong Kong. It is far more important for the new Governor to be sceptical of the conventional diplomatic wisdom, which has held that Peking's assent must be sought for every decision, from investment in a new airport to the composition of a new Supreme Court, for fear of derailing the "smooth train" heading Hong Kong towards Chinese sovereignty.

The new Governor's priority should be to give his twilight government the maximum democratic legitimacy. As an appointed official himself, that will require him to bring

John Major is wisely avoiding the same trap. Though he seems to want a Conservative in the job, he is maintaining a studied neutrality as to which. Some in government are signalling that they are attracted by the candidature of Peter Brooke, who gave up his job of Northern Ireland secretary in the weekend reshuffle.

Precedent suggests that the Speaker should be chosen from the same party as the one that forms the government. That has been the case for all seven postwar Speakers. But this is a precedent, not a rule, and it deserves to be examined. Until 1979, it was tolerable because the colour of the government changed. Now the Tories have won four elections in succession. In these circumstances, the independence of the Speaker becomes even more important. It would best be protected by a new convention which laid down that the office was rotated between the parties, and not reserved for "one of us".

That may be a step too far for the triumphant Tories. But whatever happens, Mr Brooke would not be the best choice. He is liked and respected on all sides of the House. But he has only just ceased to be a member of the government. True, Harry Hyton-Foster moved directly from being Solicitor General to being Speaker in 1959, but the Solicitor General is *sui generis*, above party politics.

The Tories have other strong candidates. Sir Giles Shaw is the choice of the Tory backbench establishment. Terence Higgins, however, has been a robustly independent chairman of the liaison committee which coordinates the work of the parliamentary select committees. No one on the Labour side would regard him as in any way partial. If, regrettably, the Tories cannot stomach a Labour Speaker then Mr Higgins would be among the most acceptable names. But if the Tory top brass insist on one of their own kind, their backbenchers should assert their independence and defy the whips.

PERILS AND OPPORTUNITIES

in to Hong Kong's executive council, which acts as his Cabinet, as many as possible of the politicians who won seats last September on its Legislative Council in Hong Kong's first democratic election.

Since Hong Kong is not being prepared for independence, the history of decolonisation is no guide, except in one

important respect: Britain should leave none of the laws on the statute books in 1997 of the kind which, from Pakistan to Zimbabwe, have been exploited by post-colonial rulers to justify repression. The anti-subversion clause

China inserted into its Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong, following the Tiananmen clampdown, makes it all the more vital to entrench the independence of the judiciary, restrict censorship from Peking and lay down legal guarantees for a free press. Peking, which last week demanded the dropping of the TV documentary *Tiananmen* from the Hong Kong film festival, will object big business and the Foreign Office will urge caution. The Governor should listen to his electorate, which voted overwhelmingly last year for candidates ready to stand up to Peking. And he should speed up the timetable for more direct elections.

Hong Kong's prosperity is indissolubly linked to the Chinese mainland's. China is not politically monolithic, as the Foreign Office tends to assume. Just across the border, Guangdong province is booming — largely because its businessmen and party officials have paid scant attention to Peking's attempts to put the brake on economic and political reforms since 1989. Deng Xiaoping's prediction in January that Guangdong will be Asia's "fifth dragon" depends on investment from Hong Kong and on foreigners working via Hong Kong. This interdependence is Hong Kong's political opportunity. The new Governor's eye should be focused far more on Guangdong's realities than on Peking's rhetoric.

UNDER JUDGMENT

That the Master of the Rolls should speak up for his old friend the Lord Chief Justice is no great sensation: what else are friends for? But Lord Donaldson's remarks in court yesterday on the occasion of the retirement of Lord Lane went some way beyond the usual limits. He said he wanted, on behalf of Lord Lane's judicial colleagues, to "give voice to the anger and disgust we have felt at the calumny waged against you in recent months". This was not the judicious language usually heard from the English bench.

Evidently a degree of polarisation between some senior judges and at least some sections of public opinion seems to have developed which could bode ill for the welfare of the judicial system. An angry and embittered judge is not likely to be a good judge.

The campaign against Lord Lane that Lord Donaldson was referring to included a House of Commons motion signed by more than 100 MPs last year, calling on him to resign. Its origin was Lord Lane's somewhat high-handed dismissal of an appeal in 1987 by the Birmingham Six, at the end of which he remarked that the longer the hearing had gone on the more he was convinced of their guilt. Rarely have words from the bench been so ill-judged.

Since then, not only have the Six been released but serious allegations of misconduct, still unresolved, have been made against Crown witnesses in the case. It was the Birmingham case, following that of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven, which last year led the then home secretary, Kenneth Baker, to set up the royal commission on the criminal justice system.

Much more is wrong with the system, obviously, than could possibly be attributed to one judgment by one judge. Some of the

public comment on Lord Lane's fitness for high office, based on this one incident, has been overstated. And though his early retirement (at 73 rather than 75) is no great misfortune, he clearly does not deserve to be driven from public life as a scapegoat. In many respects his influence — for instance his resistance in the House of Lords to mandatory life sentences for murder, his redefining of the law in order to recognise the crime of rape within marriage — has been loyal and humane.

None the less Lord Lane belongs to an older judicial generation and shares its traditional aloofness and complacency. It has never seemed to worry him, if he was aware of it, that public confidence in the system for which he was at least nominally responsible had all but collapsed, and that his own role in the Birmingham Six case was the last straw. Had he responded to that public concern, there would have been no occasion for any unfair "calumny".

By the tone of his remarks Lord Donaldson did not seem to acknowledge that these problems even existed. That will not enhance confidence in his own judgment, nor in that of the other senior judges for whom he spoke. There were ways in which he could have been loyal to Lord Lane without seeming to sweep aside all public criticism of his friend, whether reasonable or exaggerated.

There could be no greater contrast with yesterday's farewells than the first action of Lord Lane's successor as Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Taylor. On his appointment in February he called a press conference to declare his commitment to the renewal of public confidence in the English system of criminal law. It is to him and to other judges of his generation that the future belongs.

Signs of disarray in hospital trusts

From the Chairman of the NHS Support Federation

Sir, It was generous of the new health secretary to announce yesterday in *TV-am's Frost on Sunday* that all hospitals will not now have to become trusts, as we were led to believe before her appointment. The majority of hospitals are either already trusts or operating as shadow trusts to come on-line by April 1993.

The start of the new financial year sees district health authorities faced with rapidly rising hospital prices. There is much internal disarray and continued "rationalisation" as a consequence. Desperately needed community services are being curtailed as staff with ever-increasing case-loads are able to provide precious little evidence of cost-benefits.

These reductions in services are either despite, or because of, the great new band of accountants, finance officers, contract writers and negotiators, at least 18,000 of them at an estimated cost of over £1 billion.

It has now become known that Lord McColl's letter to *The Times* before the election (April 4), which stated support for the NHS changes from health professionals, was circulated by the Conservative Research Department.

From the mid-1980s Lord McColl and I were fellow directors of surgery and medicine respectively, at Guy's, where with other clinical, nursing and administrative colleagues we pioneered a new approach to hospital management, the Resource Management Initiative (RMI).

Chaired by a clinician, each clinical management board set clinical priorities and policy for the hospital within the overall budgetary limits imposed upon it, supported by an expert team of administrators and managers who sought to implement these clinical objectives.

All this was overturned at Guy's by the imposition of the so-called reforms. Now the institution is run by a non-medical chairman and board of directors (appointed directly or indirectly by the Secretary of State) and a chief executive who seek to maximise the profitability of the hospital. To these priorities the clinicians are now subordinated.

In many respects Guy's performed substantially better during its last year of RMT than in its first year as a trust. And the internal market only took effect from April 1 of this year so

Election predictions

From Mr Noel Falconer

Sir, The election opinion polls did accurately and reliably what the pundits continue to display the shallowness of their expertise by pontificating upon a "failure" that does not exist and hence cannot be investigated.

Polls reflect what the population as a whole will and can tell. Both qualifications are powerful. We lie to intrusive questions — I have deceived them myself. And we lie to ourselves; we fulminate against the actions of this minister or the next and swear never to vote for those clowns again. Only at the moment of marking the ballot paper do we discover the truth too late to inform a pollster even if we are willing to do so.

Statistics is a language that the public does not speak, that needs interpretation by genuine experts aware of its limitations.

Yours sincerely,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Hazel Grove,
Stockport, Greater Manchester.
April 11.

From Lieutenant-Commander Richard Attwater

Sir, The introduction of a swinging opinion poll tax before the next election would bring relief to millions.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD ATTWATER,
7 Ash Walk, Warminster, Wiltshire.
April 10.

Comic Relief

From Ms Jane Tewson

Sir, This year's "Behind the Nose", the Comic Relief programme scheduled for Good Friday on BBC1 (letter, April 14), is unequivocally not a fund-raiser, nor is it a Red Nose Day.

Our intention is to address some of the serious issues that lie behind our fund-raising. We have made a film that examines the reasons why so many people in Africa are poor and remain poor. We have also made five short films about our work in the UK

MSG and diabetes

From Dr P. J. Roberts

Sir, The article "Diabetes danger in a taste of Chinese", by Edward Ashpole (Science, April 8) may have caused your readers unnecessary concern by suggesting the widely used additive monosodium glutamate (MSG) may be linked to diabetes. Having been involved in glutamate research for over 20 years, I would like to clarify the matter.

The article is based on recent research from Joel Bockaert's group in Montpellier. In my opinion, their findings provide no direct evidence for such a link. What those workers have found is that glutamate, in the presence of a physiologically-stimulating concentration of glucose,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Scouting for scientific discoveries

From Professor James W. Prichard

Sir, The bad state of government support for scholarly research in Britain has been lamented by several British scientists in your letters columns recently. During a recent scientific consulting visit to London, I repeatedly heard the same complaints from my British colleagues.

They, together with the even greater number of ordinary supporters, are painfully aware of the erosion of a universal system of care based on principles of equity. And they will continue to campaign for a better NHS.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY KEEN, Chairman,
NHS Support Federation,
Toynbee Hall,
28 Commercial Street, E1.
April 13.

From Mr John C. Shearer

Sir,

The suggestion in your leading article (April 13) that Virginia Bonham-Carter's promotion is due to "gender" is not only unfair, but also

wrong. She is a compassionate and intelligent MP, who has been a valuable addition to the House of Commons.

I know her and know that she is a compassionate and intelligent MP, who has been a valuable addition to the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SHEARER,
Anstead Brook House,
Anstead Brook,
Nr Haslemere, Surrey.
April 14.

From Dr T. R. S. Bailey

Sir, I was sorry to learn that Mrs Edwina Currie felt unable to accept a post in the new government. Between 1986 and 1988 Mrs Currie worked with great energy and enthusiasm, with a zeal for health promotion which we have not seen before or since in a minister of health.

In the first ten months of 1988 there were 120 reported cases of salmonella bacteraemia of which 26 people died. The number of deaths would have increased had not Mrs Currie, alone, been prepared to speak out. The country should be grateful to her. Rarely do ministers save lives.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BAILEY,
Lincoln Lodge,
Newmarket, Suffolk.
April 15.

Elgin Marbles

From Mrs Magda Delfas

Sir, When in 1967 I left Greece under the colonels' rule, my visits to the British Museum brought me solace. I was able to keep in touch with my cultural heritage outside the geographical and political confines of Greece.

Later, I discovered to my delight and amazement that apart from the perfect display of the Elgin Marbles (leading article, April 6; letters, April 13) in their special gallery, they are kept in a country where the study of ancient Greek is kept alive, where Greek plays are performed either in the original or in English, and in the most erudite and scholarly fashion, like the Theban plays by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford last season and in London this year.

Schoolchildren, among them my own son, have the privilege and joy of reciting verse and studying Homer in the original. By contrast, in

whim, since neither they nor their elders knew for sure how to judge one direction better than another. Most of them would not have come back. The ones that did would have determined which way the tribe walked.

Even so today, our scouts are scholars. The most successful of them reveal more of the rules governing our existence, which rules are then available for rational exploitation to increase the general good through the genius of commercialism.

Scholars who "fail" in that sense — which has to be most of them — are no longer literal human sacrifices as their equivalents were in hunter-gatherer days, but as a society we have a great interest in making sure that they do not become figurative ones. They can still make useful contributions.

The cost is small. Your country is not easy to explain to the public. In his letter (April 1) Professor Biscoe of University College London rightly tackles the problem that is hardest for general understanding: scientific research must be inefficient to be successful. He uses the example of penicillin, discovered in England by workers not originally motivated to challenge the natural course of infectious disease. Similar examples abound.

If research scientists know in advance what most of their experiments will show, they are by definition doing the wrong things. Their plans cannot be made entirely according to known rules, because their job is to figure out the rules that we don't know yet. They are scouts, and upon their scouting depends the good of us all.

Before our ancestors invented agriculture some few thousand years ago, the hunter-gatherer bands that preceded them must regularly have sent out scouts to find new sources of food. Those scouts were surely the brasher young people of the tribe, and they surely went out in all directions according to hunch and

Greece the study of ancient Greek in schools has been stopped. The impoverished language spoken today has been cut off from its natural roots.

Visitors to museums (including that on the Acropolis) are frustrated by restricted opening times and high admission charges. Moreover, a new gallery close to the Parthenon to house the marbles would violate the Acropolis.

The advocates of the demand for the return of the Elgin Marbles, which stems from empty nationalist zeal and socialist policies, should direct their zeal and support towards Cyprus. The marbles must remain where they are, in a country which cherishes the classical tradition.

Yours faithfully,
M. DELFAS,
Arcadia, 38 Kenilworth Road,
Royal Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.
April 13.

School exchange visits

From the President of the Association of British Travel Agents

Sir, Your leader (April 10) expressed concern at the possible detrimental effect of the imminent EC package holiday directive on school exchange visits.

Yours concern is unnecessary. The government's proposals for ensuring that tour operators provide financial security for package holidaymakers include options of insurance and secure client accounts which will be entirely appropriate and not burdensome for

Downing Street brings in new faces

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 16 1992

OBITUARIES

JOHN BRANCKER

John W. S. Brancker, a former senior executive of BOAC and a traffic director of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), died in Elgin, Ontario, on March 27 aged 81. He was born in India on July 13, 1910.

FOR more than 50 years of a life devoted to air communications John William Sefton Brancker contributed to the smooth running of civil aviation throughout the world. He was the only son of the energetic and popular Brigadier-General Sir Sefton Brancker, director of Civil Aviation at the Air Ministry from 1922 until his death in the R101 airship disaster in 1930. Brancker followed his father to Bedford School where he looked forward to joining the RAF. That ambition was thwarted through a slight eyesight defect. Instead he became, with the future Sir Keith Granville, one of the first two recruits to the Imperial Airways' commercial trainee scheme.

Posted first to Cairo, he was waiting for the arrival of the R101 at the Ismailia mooring mast, bearing the Secretary of State for Air and his father, when news of the fatal crash at Beauvais in France arrived. This was his tragic introduction to long-distance aviation.

After a period as station superintendent in Kisumu, Kenya, Brancker took part in the first flying-boat route survey to Durban. During the next few years, in the days of the Handley Page landplanes and the Short flying boats, he was, successively, area manager, central Africa, 1933-37; Imperial Airways' director of Wilson Airways in Nairobi and Rhodesian and Nyasaland Airways; manager, Imperial Airways (Continent), 1937-40; regional

director BOAC for India and Burma, 1940-42; regional director, West Africa, 1942-44; and BOAC's deputy director general (commercial), 1944-46.

When British European Airways was formed in 1946 Brancker was appointed its first deputy managing director (traffic). Next year he moved back to BOAC as manager of its eastern division and subsequently became BOAC's general manager, international affairs.

In 1953 he joined IATA in Montreal as traffic director to take a leading part in the commercial and technical committees of the world's airlines. He brought a robust and cheerful as well as encyclopedic knowledge to the business and a delight in air transport's gregarious social affairs.

Short in stature, wearing a monocle in his left eye (the opposite to that of his father) John Brancker brought intelligence, deep thought and negotiating skill to the manifold problems which confronted the steady development of air carriage. Yet he never attained the heights he might have, possibly because he had a certain reserve in pushing himself forward and because he saw, more clearly than most, the shortcomings of some of those in authority who did not possess his own professionalism. He was said, with truth, "to suffer fools cheerfully, if not gladly."

In 1935 he married Jane Wheeler, who died in 1972 leaving him with a son, Richard, in business in Canada.

In his later years Brancker lived in retirement in a remote corner of Ontario, alone but for the companionship of a fine and intelligent Newfoundland dog whose recent death probably hastened his master's demise.

MOLLY PICON

Molly Picon, Jewish-American actress, died on April 5. Her date of birth, in New York, is quoted as June 1, 1898.

MOLLY Picon was one of the last great stalwarts of Yiddish-speaking theatre in New York, a bubbly figure whose rare London appearances ranged from pre-war vaudeville at the Palladium to a 1960 starring role opposite Robert Morley in an east-west comedy called *A Majority of One*. Picon personified the American west, Morley, somewhat improbably but nonetheless comically, the east, as a Japanese businessman.

She was the daughter of a



shirtmaker and a wardrobe mistress, and made her stage debut at the age of six, touring as Baby Margaret in a vaudeville act which played nickelodeon theatres around Philadelphia. That same year, 1904, she joined the local Yiddish repertory in Pennsylvania as a child actress. She spent most of her childhood on the stage, playing in song-and-dance acts all over America. Between 1908 and 1912 she appeared in works as varied as *Bury the String*, *King Lear*, *The Kreutzer Sonata* and *Shulman*.

In 1919, with her marriage to the Yiddish producer and playwright Jacob Kalich, she started her long association with his Jewish theatre company, based at the famous Second Avenue Theatre in New York; she also continued her vaudeville appearances. In 1931 a Jewish theatre in New York was named the Molly Picon in her honour.

After her Broadway debut in 1941 with Evelyn Williams' *Morning Star* she spent the rest of the war on world-wide tours. At its end she performed her repertoire of Jewish songs before the survivors of the concentration camps.

Into her eighties, she continued to work with the Yiddish theatre and on television.

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Russell Buringham

enough as we take our tickets at Euston. Bleasby is a landmark; it stands on the borders of the easy-going, homely south that we know so well.

For a while we pass through

the flat, open midland fields, a kind of neutral zone inhabited by strange but not necessarily hostile people, who, as we believe, hunt six days a week. Then with Lichfield and Tamworth, Rugeley and Polesworth, we come into the country of slag heaps, where dwell the fearful subterranean tribes of the miners. How different the slagheaps look when we are going home to Stamford Bridge beyond Shropshire.

A row of blackened, smoky trees heralds the approach of Crewe. Another little while and away on our left there stands out a big bluff, and in front of it a rolling stretch of country, its outlines mellowed and dimmed by a grey haze. In the distance there is a streak of silver. Here is the Mersey and Runcorn, and in a moment Lancashire. No county deserves and none possesses a gateway of more terrific grandeur - the two black towns on either bank, the two towering bridges, and far below the water and the stretches of grey, not yellow, mud. And Widnes on the further bank is in the grip of a darkling, mysterious something called alkali, and alkali paints his kingdom in stripes of black and grey, and hangs fumes and vapours over it for a great canopy. Somewhere, if it be the right season, we catch a fleeting characteristic glimpse - a bowing green, crowned and smooth-shaven, in a setting of woods with practised grace. These are the terrible Northmen, and they would throw bricks at us.

And then the trains slides into Lime-street; we descend tremulously onto the platform: a porter takes our bag with an engaging friendliness, and suddenly all our nightmare fears are gone and we are delighted to be there.

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SIR NORMAN ELLIOTT

Sir Norman Elliott, CBE, former chairman of the Electricity Council, died on March 23 aged 88. He was born on July 19, 1903.

NORMAN Elliott had a rare combination of talents, equally applicable to the most senior positions in both the public and private sectors of industry. He followed four very successful years as chairman of the Electricity Council with a ten year spell as chairman of the Howden Group. He had a remarkable intellect, an incisive mind, great charm, and the ability to lead and delegate. He inspired great loyalty in the people who worked for him and directed their efforts with enthusiasm and vision.

He was educated privately, and then went to St Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he read law and engineering. He later became a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Civil Engineers. He was called to the Bar, but did not practise, choosing instead to enter the electricity industry. Before the second world war he held a number of posts, mainly in the electricity supply industry.

During the war, he served with 21 Army Group becoming a colonel and deputy director of works. The prime task was to restore the power stations and power lines in Normandy and through to Holland in the wake of the allied advance. For the success of these tasks he was appointed OBE. Soon after the war ended



he launched himself with gusto and panache into the newly formed South Eastern Electricity Board, of which he was appointed chairman. He set up a management structure and a philosophy which proved so effective that it is still influential today. As chairman of the South of Scotland Board in the early

and those with government. In all, he contributed 25 years service for which he was created CBE in 1957 and knighted in 1967.

It would be quite wrong to think of Norman Elliott, who was affectionately known as Jerry, as simply a dedicated public servant. As befitting a first cousin of Jack Buchanan, he had a light touch and a debonair spirit. He loved the theatre and many varieties of music. He also had a passion for ball games, particularly rugby football, which he first played at Cambridge University. He represented the Southend Club and Eastern Counties despite being on the tall side for a hooker. Later on, he refereed in Sussex for many years. There was a sneaking suspicion that he was not acquainted with all the laws, but the respect he commanded in the players overruled that problem.

The later stages of his career were spent in the private sector of industry, to the demands of which he was swiftly able to adapt himself. Not only was he chairman of the Howden Group but he also held directorships in the Newark and McAlpine Group and Schlumberger Limited. These appointments lasted until he was well into his eighties, during which time his advice was much sought after and valued.

His wife, Phyllis, predeceased him. He leaves his stepdaughters, Josephine and Sally, and a stepson, Simon Clarke, the former England scrum half.

APPRECIATIONS

Hywel D. Lewis

WITH the death of Hywel David Lewis (obituary, April 14) an Elijah among the prophets has passed from the world scene of philosophy and religion.

His passing will be deeply mourned across the globe from Japan and India, across Europe, to the United States and Canada, where he kindled the flame of philosophical inquiry in the hearts of generations of students — not least through his own metaphysical anguish.

Hywel Lewis was a philosopher whose roots went deep into the British idealist tradition, but who for a good part of his life was in sharp conflict with the contempt for metaphysics that characterised logical positivism and spilled over into the linguistic and analytical philosophy that prevailed in Oxford. His own passionate commitment to truth, the truth of being and of reason, would not allow him to tolerate any divergence of reason from experience, or any neglect of the great themes of philosophy, freedom and responsibility, mind and matter, the existence of God, the immortality of the soul.

As a philosopher he built bridges between East and



West, philosophy and religion, but he himself constituted a bridge from the earlier concern with metaphysics over the arid decades of positivism, to the present, when once again the great metaphysical issues have been brought back to the centre of the philosophical arena.

Our debt to him in this respect will be increasingly appreciated — a debt already signalled by his appointment as Gifford Lecturer in Edinburgh. He will be remembered particularly for his sensitive understanding of personal being which came to find expression particularly in his later works as *The Elusive Mind*, *The Self and Immortality*, and *The Elusive Self*.

Thomas F. Torrance

Leueen MacGrath

LEUEEN MacGrath (obituary, April 14) and I met as first-year students at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 1931. What a friend she was ever after — compassionate and understanding, loyal and generous, with a delicious sense of humour! I'll never forget the kindness that Leueen and her then husband, George Kaufman, the playwright *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *With a Little Love*, and *Play It Again, Sam*.



Leueen was a meticulous director, showed me when I arrived in New York for the first time.

As an actress Leueen had a good deal of success — from the first production of Terence Rattigan's *French Without Tears*, later in Robert Morley's *Edward My Son* (filmed with Spencer Tracy in the leading role), and on and off Broadway in New York, where she lived and worked for over 20 years.

Leueen's friends had the best of her. Husbands, of which she had five, did not fare as well. She was, indeed, quite difficult to live up to. She was amazingly lively and

generous. Almost eerily articulate, perhaps because she was extraordinarily well-read.

She had an unusual sort of beauty, and because of a total lack of the flamboyant self-confidence so often connected with the stage, she evoked both great love and great respect. Even as she entered a room, she struck people as a special person — special in both character and style, with an enormous aura of attraction.

Frith Bunting

Friedrich von Hayek

THE death of Professor Hayek (obituary, March 25) has caused sadness at the Reform Club, where he had been a member since 1935.

Few in our age who began their careers as voices in the wilderness can have lived to

see their ideas conquer men's minds to such wide-spread effect.

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Russell Buringham

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Nor is the adventure wholly imaginary. Tall chimneys and dogs and women with shawls over their heads never grow familiar. Plant us suddenly down in the streets of Wigan and we feel like Macaulay's cockney in a rural village who had intruded into a kingly hall.

Beyond that, we have somehow created for ourselves a picture of the north which persists even when we know well that is quite unlike the reality. John Leech made us actually frightened of it by one famous picture. "Who's him?" says one miner to another. "A smasher." "Heave half a brick at him..."

Lloyd Webber pledges to put £10.25m Canaletto on public display



Italian vision of England: Canaletto's rarely seen *View of the Old Horse Guards London from St James's Park*, the artist's demonstration piece after he first came to England in 1746

Continued from page 1

is thought to be such, however, that Christie's has agreed to wait for payment. Canaletto started his career painting his home city, Venice, for the 18th century tourists. In 1746, he travelled to England and produced *The Old Horse Guards* as his demonstration piece.

As soon as he finished, he booked space in the *Daily Advertiser* inviting "any Gentleman that will be pleased to come ... to see a picture ... being a View of St James's Park".

The painting was initially bought by the fourth Earl of Radnor, who described it as "the most capital picture I ever saw of that master". It was subsequently bequeathed to his friend James Harris, and eventually passed to Viscount Fitzharris. Yesterday's auction was the first time it had been sold since the artist's lifetime.

A spokesman for the current Viscount Fitzharris said: "He is very very happy the painting is staying in this country."

Elsewhere, the Christie's Old Master sale was patchy. A tiny Rembrandt, *Daniel and Cyrus before the Idol of Bel*, which had been consigned by the Earl of St Germans, failed to sell, in spite of bids rising to £6 million.

Woman leads British contingent in Croatia

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is to send a field ambulance unit of 260 military personnel led by a woman to Croatia as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, announced yesterday. An advance party is to fly out next week.

Lieutenant Colonel Lois Lodge, the first woman to command a regular army unit, will be in charge of ambulance detachments in each of the four UN sectors. Lt Col Lodge's unit, 24 Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps, which served in the Gulf war, will include six doctors, four nurses and 60 combat medics. The rest of the contingent, which will be based in Zagreb, will be logistics and administrative staff.

The decision to send 260 military personnel to Croatia was taken at yesterday's cabinet meeting. Mr Rifkind said the UN had made a particular request for Britain to supply a field ambulance unit. The British military team

will be committed to serving with the UN peacekeeping force.

Unmarried and described as highly professional and popular, she is a doctor with specialist training in community medicine. She will come under the overall command of Colonel Christopher Price, who is already in Croatia with a team of medical advisers.

SERBIAN ISOLATION, page 12



Cabinet sets out priorities

Continued from page 1

danger that the IRA would be encouraged by the impersonal coverage, he said.

Later, Mr Major praised Chris Patten for the campaign's success, saying there had been no strategic errors throughout. He added that he would be writing to thank all former cabinet members for their work.

William Waldegrave, who is responsible for the citizen's charter, warned colleagues that with his new responsibilities for efficiency in Whitehall he would be harrying them to ensure that they were taking efficiency seriously.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, gave notice of his announcement on British medical troops to Yugoslavia.

Downing Street made clear that while the prime minister had now got the people he wanted around him, there were likely to be further changes. "You cannot appoint a cabinet overnight. It evolves."

Carrie's refusal, page 2
Speaker's test, page 5

Labour's power struggle hots up

Continued from page 1

cabinet figures conspiring to bounce their colleagues into electing Mr Smith and Mrs Beckett, the shadow Treasury secretary sought to distance herself from her boss in the Opposition's economic team. "I support John Smith's candidacy for the party leadership. I shall be nominating him and I shall vote for him," she said. "But I have not asked him to endorse my nomination because if he wins he will have to work with whoever is chosen as deputy."

While she emphasises that their views are not "in any way identical", Mr Gould's supporters say that a Smith-Beckett leadership would be bad for the party because of the similarity of their outlook on taxation and exchange rate policy, the issue that is fast becoming the fault line in the contest.

Mr Patten's candidature added a new dimension to the contest. Stepping back a pace from the inquest into the policy failings of Labour's defeat, he emphasised the importance of strengthening party organisation and rescuing its parious finances and dwin-

ding membership. Efforts to create a party with one million members had proved a "miserable failure", he said. He indicated that he shared some of Mr Gould's misgivings about economic policy and added that more emphasis could have been put on the poll tax, housing and his portfolio of transport.

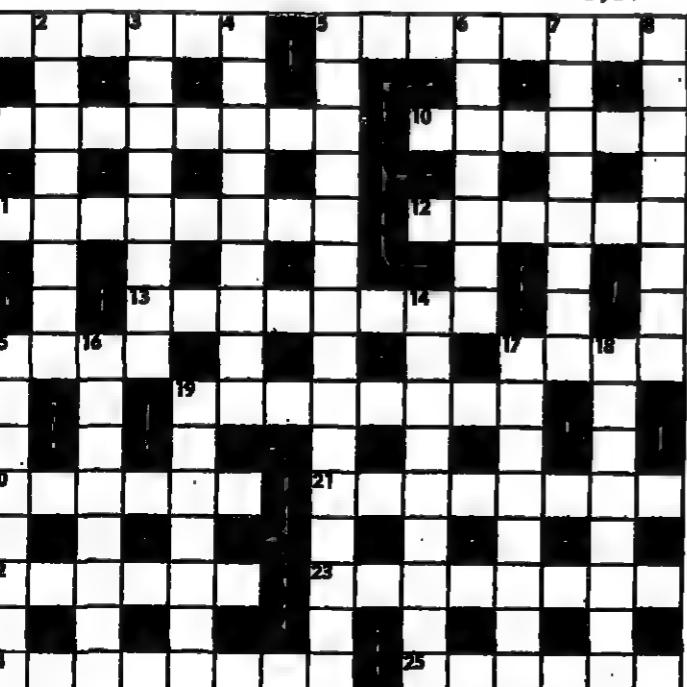
The party had not sold the "benefits" of its tax and spending policies hard enough on the doorsteps and had not been sensitive enough to regional variations in the electorate's response to higher taxes for those earning more than £22,000.

Mrs Beckett, Mr Gould and Mr Patten can be sure of getting the support of the 55 Labour MPs they need for nomination. Ms Clegg, the spokeswoman on overseas development, can be less sure. She will seek to draw support from the soft left.

Mrs Beckett adopted a cautious approach to proportional representation. She wanted no "snap judgment".

Profiles, page 5
Peter Riddell, page 16

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,894



Solution to Puzzle No 18,893

COPYHOLD LESSEE
A J O E E T E M
T H E P O W E R S T H A T B E
G R D D O A U R
H U R D L E S T E N T P E G
Y F U E S O E
S T U M B L E R L E M O N
C T O I A T
L E E C H D E C K H A N D
A A E E E N S
R A V I N G S C O M P E T E
I A D T H L R X
N U M I S M A T O L O G I S T
E P E R I C S O
T U S S L E B R A K E M A N

Crossword, page 19.
Life & Times section

The Easter Jumbo crossword will be published Saturday

FORECAST WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

MORALITY

- a. Foolishness
- b. The study of aesthetics
- c. Comparative religion

FAMILISTRE

- a. A communal house
- b. A house familiar
- c. The servants' quarters

PANNAGE

- a. A portable kitchen
- b. Panning for gold
- c. Feeding swine in the forest

EXTRAFORANEOUS

- a. Outward
- b. Reinforcements
- c. With an outer arcade

Answers on page 18

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circ) M-ways/roads M4-M1
M-ways/roads M4-Dartford T
M-ways/roads M25-M2
M-ways/roads M25-London orbital only
National
North of motorways
West Country
Wales
Midlands
East Anglia
North-West England
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Likely over eastern and southeastern counties of England, falling as snow briefly over the hills. Showers will die out during the afternoon apart from near the southeast coast. Northern Scotland will become cloudy later while northwestern and northern isles will see some light rain. Outlook: cloud and rain spreading from the North-West; bright and mostly dry in Scotland.

TEMPERATURES

Most areas will be dry with sunny periods but with showers possibly over eastern and southeastern counties of England, falling as snow briefly over the hills. Showers will die out during the afternoon apart from near the southeast coast. Northern Scotland will become cloudy later while northwestern and northern isles will see some light rain. Outlook: cloud and rain spreading from the North-West; bright and mostly dry in Scotland.

WINDS

Cloudy with showers over the south and west. Showers will die out during the afternoon apart from near the southeast coast. Northern Scotland will become cloudy later while northwestern and northern isles will see some light rain. Outlook: cloud and rain spreading from the North-West; bright and mostly dry in Scotland.

RAISING-UP TIMES

London 7.59 pm to 9.00 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 9.10 am
Edinburgh 8.22 pm to 8.02 am
Manchester 8.12 pm to 8.04 am
Birmingham 8.18 pm to 8.25 am

Sun rises: 6.03 am 7.59 pm
Moon sets: 5.12 pm 7.40 pm

Full moon tomorrow:

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: min 8am to 8pm, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.13m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

TODAY: Temp: max 8am to 8pm, 9C (46F); min 8pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

TONIGHT: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

WEDNESDAY: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

THURSDAY: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

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SATURDAY: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

SUNDAY: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

MONDAY: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max 8pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 0.01m. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 5.5hr.

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TUESDAY: Temp: min 8pm to 8am, 9C (46F); max

THURSDAY APRIL 16 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

21

O&Y encouraged by continuing talks with banks

TODAY IN BUSINESS

TIED UP

Tie Rack

Tie Rack, the niche retailer, has bounced back with profits of more than £1 million in the year to February after losing nearly £1 million in the six months after the Gulf war. Page 23

GUESTIMATES

Economic forecasters looking for an end to recession are no more successful than opinion pollsters. Page 25

NOT SO BLUE

O Blue Circle

Blue Circle, the building materials group, is maintaining its final dividend at 7.5p despite a 36 per cent fall in profits. Temps, page 22

LIBYA LINKS

Directors of British companies trading with Libya face heavy fines or prison sentences if they breach UN sanctions. Page 22

BARRIERS



Robert Bruce explains how barriers to European competition resulted in a bland report. Accountancy Times page 29

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7618 (-0.0077)
German mark 2.9184 (+0.0063)
Exchange index 91.9 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2053.0 (+36.1)
FT-SE 100 2640.2 (+39.7)
New York Dow Jones 3333.86 (+27.73)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 17948.01 (+508.43)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 10.1%
3-month Interbank 10%
5-month eligible bills 10.9%
US Prime Rate 4.1%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.82-3.60%
30-year bonds 10.11-10.12%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ 142.9170	\$ 1.7570*
£ 5.2673	\$ 1.6620*
£ 1.6714	\$ 1.5345*
£ 1.2345	\$ 1.5285*
£ 1.1919	\$ 1.5343*
ECU 1.070286	SDR 20.77672
£ 1.42304	£ 1.207379

London foreign market close

GOLD

London Flung: AM 5339.80 pm 5338.95
close \$336.75 337.55 (£1.91-20-
191.70)
New York: Come \$337.05 337.55*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$18.60 £11.60

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 136.7 March (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

By MATTHEW BOND
AND PHILIP ROBINSON

STEVE Miller, the investment banker guiding the financial reconstruction of Olympia & York, the Canadian property company, knows he has a mountain to climb before the restructuring is finally agreed. But he is confident it can be done.

Talks between O&Y and its banks continued yesterday, two days after the meeting at which the group's 91 banks were informed that the private group controlled by the Reichmann brothers had debts of C\$14.3 billion (£6.8 billion). The fact that

the talks were continuing was encouraging. Mr Miller said: "The banks have stayed here, they have rolled their sleeves up and are talking to us." He said:

The challenge that O&Y still faces was demonstrated by the news that it had failed to meet a \$62 million interest payment on a \$800 million bond, secured on a building in O&Y's World Financial Centre in New York, after the expiry of a 20-day grace period. The bond has not been called technically in default but the company is now in urgent talks with Nomura, which placed the bond with Japanese clients. Mon-

day's meeting had indicated that O&Y's American operation was financially stable in the medium term, but the problem with the Japanese bond confirms that all the group's operations have been hit by the current liquidity problems.

Despite continuing reports of dissent between conflicting groups of bankers, Mr Miller said all the negotiations had had a positive tone. "I have not yet heard a single banker say that the collapse of the company would be preferable to it continuing under the current management." He denied that O&Y, which surprised bankers on Monday

by proposing to restructure only C\$5.6 billion of its total debts, was attempting to dictate terms. He said: "The banks want to ensure that there is fairness in the way all the bank groups are treated, one to another. We share that objective."

Mr Miller also denied that although O&Y's plan proposes that each of its three operating countries — Canada, America and Britain — are treated separately, that any one country might be sacrificed to secure the future of the other two. In particular, he said O&Y remained committed to Canary Wharf, the Docklands office project that has so far cost the company £1.4 billion to build and which urgently requires a further £100 million to complete the current building programme. "Canary Wharf is the jewel in the crown of the empire... It is the area where there is the most upside potential."

O&Y has £700 million of "equity" in Canary Wharf, although £450 million of that comes from a loan from four Canadian banks. Talks with the banking syndicate and with the ten-strong, European-led syndicate that provided a £500 million loan in 1990 are at the centre of talks in Toronto. Both syndicates are being asked for further finance.

First downturn for seven months

High street sales in March hit by poll worries

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRE-ELECTION blues contributed to a downturn in high street sales during March, the first for seven months, the CBI said.

Shopkeepers are gearing up for higher sales this month, in the belief that the removal of uncertainty and better weather will restore sales growth, needed to help Britain out of recession.

Their optimism is supported by a strong surge in business among wholesalers, whose level of activity is widely regarded as an important leading economic indicator. But car sales have yet to respond to the halving of car tax announced in the Budget.

The year-on-year retail sales decline during March was recorded by the CBI's distributive survey. It was the first shown by return from the organisation's 15,000 wholesaling and retailing members since July, when confidence was at a low ebb.

Nigel Whitaker, the chairman of the CBI's distributive trade panel, said: "We are bound to see ups and downs along the road to recovery. My expectation is that we will see a resumption of growth during April."

The survey, carried out between March 13 and April 8, showed an abrupt increase in

business by wholesalers during March, a change identified by Mr Whitaker as a promising pointer to economic recovery.

According to the previous survey, 11 per cent more wholesalers expected business to improve during March than expected it to worsen. The latest returns showed a balance of 43 per cent experienced increased trading volumes.

"We have not seen figures like that for a year," Mr Whitaker said. A balance of 43 per cent of wholesalers expected a further rise in sales during April.

Optimism among retailers is now at its highest level this year. Seventeen per cent more expected business to get better than expected sales to worsen during April.

In March, a positive balance of 7 per cent had expected an improvement. But the survey found that on balance, 5 per cent more had seen things get worse.

The election had increased uncertainty and depressed sales during March, Mr Whitaker said. However, two more significant factors were also at work. During March last year, sales of household goods, especially more expensive consumer durables, were inflated as consumers rushed to beat a 2 per cent increase in

in value added tax, to 7 per cent, which took effect on April 1.

In addition, Easter was earlier in the year, so the March figures benefited. At Easter, sales of goods associated with the holiday, such as chocolate eggs, are normally dwarfed by the rush to garden centres and DIY superstores.

Statistical factors alone, therefore, point to a resumption of year-on-year sales growth when next month's high street sales figures are unveiled.

The CBI survey seems to suggest that consumers remain cautious about spending large sums. Motor car sales showed little response to cuts in the car tax, which should have reduced the showroom price of models by hundreds of pounds.

"Motor traders report that the slower annual decline in sales continued in March," the CBI said. Sales are expected to improve during April, but stocks remain too high.

With the annual August registration letter change only 3½ months away, many would-be car buyers are likely to defer purchases. If consumer confidence has improved markedly, car retailers are unlikely to see the benefit before August.

Shares soar but are still seen as bargains abroad

By MICHAEL CLARK IN LONDON AND PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

A SURGE of institutional and foreign buying carried share prices on the London stock market towards their all-time high.

The FT-SE 100 index closed at its best for the day, breaching the 2,600 level comprehensively, with a rise of 39.7 at 2,640.2 in response to impressive overnight gains in New York and Tokyo. After five days of consecutive gains, the index is now less than 40 points shy of its record close of 2,679.6 in September last year. It has risen 247 points since the eve of polling last week, or 10.3 per cent.

Foreign investors now regard London as one of the cheapest markets in the world and are looking to benefit from the expected economic revival. Turnover remained high and by the close 829 million shares had changed hands. The huge flow of busi-

ness has enabled market-makers, who were running level books in the run-up to the election, to cover any short positions.

Dealers say that buying activity among the institutions has continued to be focused on leading companies, including privatisation issues and the utilities, where double figure gains proved commonplace.

So far, the investment buying has failed to filter down to the second- and third-line companies, which make up the bulk of the equity market.

Issues such as Thames Water had slumped to 329p in the days before polling, but closed last night 10p higher at 326p. Some investors have begun looking for the market to boil over, but the message from several leading securities houses last night suggested that the current bull phase

Market reports, page 24



Getting better all the time: Rocco Forte says company profits, which slumped last year, are improving

War and recession take toll on Forte

WAR in the Gulf and the recessions in Britain and America more than halved profits at Forte, the hotel and catering chain, in the year to January, from £190 million to £73 million.

As a result, the board must raid reserves to finance the dividend, which is maintained at 9.1p a share, with a 7.16p final payment.

"It's not every year you have a war in the Gulf and recession both here and Ameri-

ca," Rocco Forte, chief executive, said. He explained that many areas within the group's operations were already improving, even though it may be 1993 before some, such as the London hotels, fully recover.

Forte Hotels profits saw an 8 per cent decrease in turnover last year, which cut trading profits from £159 million to £75 million. Mainland Europe and the Middle East continue to grow, but UK provincial hotel demand remains depressed.

Capital expenditure during the year was £240 million, financed principally by bor-

rowing, which lifted gearing from 36 to 44.3 per cent. Mr Forte said he expected gearing to be lower by the end of the year.

Forte Hotels profits saw an 8 per cent decrease in turnover last year, which cut trading profits from £159 million to £75 million. Mainland Europe and the Middle East continue to grow, but UK provincial hotel demand remains depressed.

The extent of the decline in

BT to shed another 600 jobs

BY RODNEY HOBSON

BRITISH Telecom is to axe 600 international operators' jobs with the closure of four telephone exchanges by the end of 1993 as part of a rationalisation of operator services. BT has announced the loss of 10,000 operator jobs over the past year.

BT hopes that the latest cuts will be achieved through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies. Three of the centres are in London and one is in Brighton.

The Union of Communication Workers said the latest losses were higher than feared. Alan Tuffin, general secretary, said: "The speed at which BT are offloading their workforce is appalling."

The closures will leave five operator centres and three directory centres staffed by fewer than 17,000 operators. BT said the quality of its operator services was at an all-time high but that fewer centres were needed.

Boston.
Free for
two
and two
for free.

What could be nicer than a tea party in Boston? Flights courtesy of Virgin. If you travel there Upper Class before April 30th we'll give you two confirmable economy class tickets absolutely free. How civilised.

In fact whenever you fly Upper Class, Virgin's business class, anywhere in the States we'll give you a free economy ticket. Now that's very civilised. For full details call 0800 747 747

or see your travel agent.

UpperClass atlantic

Tarmac feeling like a wounded lion

BY MARTIN WALLER

TARMAC, Britain's biggest quarrying, housebuilding and construction group, has denied any signs of a bidder circling, despite disastrous 1991 figures that saw pre-tax profits tumble from £190.7 million to £21 million and a heavily cut dividend. "We've had no approaches. There are no strange movements on our share register," Sir Eric Pountney, the chairman, said as the company's shares, buoyed by takeover talk of late, fell 6p to 139p.

Tarmac's final dividend is 2.5p, making a total of 5.5p against 11.25p last time, but even the reduced figure is not covered by earnings per share reduced from 16.7p to 0.2p. Sir Eric denied that the possibility of a bid had affected the

decision to set an uncovered payment. Tarmac has 5,000 jobs, or 16 per cent of the full-time workforce, over the past two years and is refusing to rule out more job losses this year.

Sir Eric conceded that the first half of 1992 would be difficult, as a spring upturn in demand had been dashed by the election. "We are a little bit like a wounded lion at the moment."

The group is being forced to retrench into three core divisions, quarrying, construction and housebuilding, while making asset disposals worth £200 to £250 million to reduce debt that grew to £457 million at the year end.

Neville Simms, appointed chief executive this year, refused to identify the areas to be sold, but they will come mainly from the American side. Pre-tax

profits were struck after exceptional provisions of £45 million. The construction side's share was £17 million, £12 million relating to the Channel tunnel, while an extra £10 million was provided against housing land values and rationalisation and contract loss provisions in the industrial products and building materials divisions cost £18 million.

Tarmac made an exceptional profit of £6 million from the sale of options on Eurotunnel shares.

Brian Baker, the deputy chairman,

and

the

company had not ruled out another joint venture in building products similar to the aborted link with Steetley that would have offered £10 million a year in cost savings.

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company had not ruled out another joint venture in building products similar to the aborted link with Steetley that would have

TEMPUS

Tarmac licks wounds as bidder waits

WITH A dividend uncovered for the conceivable future and a price/earnings ratio well into the stratosphere, Tarmac remains about the clearest bid play on the stock market at the moment. Any investment stance can therefore only be based on a view of the eventual intentions of any putative bidders, including concerns such as Minorco and Hanson, whose aims are always notoriously difficult to divine.

The horrors of the 1991 figures had been well signposted to the market, Tarmac having no interest in seeing any abrupt plunge in its share price encouraging an opportunistic approach. The dividend is more than halved to 5.5p and pre-tax profits have disintegrated from £146.7 million to £21 million, aided by £45 million of exceptional write-offs.

Borrowings stand at £457 million, up £45 million on the year and leaving gearing, on the most conservative measure, at 51 per cent. Tarmac needs to make asset sales from its American operations and the industrial and building products sides of £200 to £250 million at bottom-of-the-market values to repair the balance sheet and reduce gearing to 25 per cent — but the board concedes that this might not happen this year.

Net assets are in the £2 area but the share price, lifted by bid speculation from a low of 97p in December, is 139p after a 6p fall on yesterday's figures, a far cry from the 235p enjoyed almost two years ago. The company is cautious about prospects for the current year, and Tarmac is probably not going to do much better than the £60 million achieved before exceptional in 1991, putting the shares on a forward multiple of about 30.

Sir Eric Fountain, the chairman, likes what was once Britain's greatest construction group to a



Unexciting outlook: James McColgan's Blue Circle Industries can only hope for the recession to end

wounded lion, but it looks more like some other great beast's lunch. The betting, however, must be that any potential predator will be tempted to wait a while and allow Tarmac to sort out some of its problems before closing for the kill.

Gamblers might like to chance the shares going no lower than they have. For other investors, it looks too early to buy.

Blue Circle

AS A construction sector company that had just paid an unchanged total dividend of 11.25p and, more impressively, totally covered the vital British and American construction markets in deep recession, while the prospects for its expensively acquired home products portfolio, including such names as Potterton Myson,

felt aggrieved to see its shares shed their early gains to close 13p lower at 272p.

Not the board, under James McColgan, is doing much wrong; it is just that none of Blue Circle's businesses looks particularly exciting at the moment. Based on last year's earnings, the shares are on a historic multiple of around 20, which looks expensive given the prospects for recovery. A gross historic yield of 6.6 per cent provides only modest comfort.

BCI's problems are that in America, where cement volumes fell 12 per cent, the €30 million acquisition of a South Carolina cement plant from Beazer actually increased volumes but both

Armitage Shanks and New World, do not look encouraging once the one-off benefits of rationalisation have worked their way through.

In Britain, where BCI has a 49 per cent share of the cement market, the company's cement volumes tracked the 17 per cent fall in the market overall, but fierce competition devastated margins. Operating profits fell from £68.1 million to £32.9 million after £3 million of largely redundancy-related costs, with return on capital employed dropping from 17.7 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

In America, where cement volumes fell 12 per cent, the €30 million acquisition of a South Carolina cement plant from Beazer actually increased volumes but both

operating profits, down 37 per cent to £11.5 million, and return on capital employed, down from 6.8 per cent to 3.9 per cent, suffered.

There is no doubt the strength of the balance sheet. Even with a convertible capital bond included as debt, gearing is only 47 per cent while interest cover is 6.5 times. But assuming £30 million of profits this year, a price/earnings multiple of over 18 makes the shares look expensive.

Forte

ROCCO Forte will hope that

the record bookings taken by his UK hotels last weekend are a sign of things to come. Forte will have rejoiced as much as most over the

Armitage Shanks

Armitage Shanks and New

World, do not look encouraging

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strength of the balance

sheet. Even with a conver-

tible capital bond included as

debt, gearing is only 47 per

cent while interest cover is

6.5 times. But assuming

£30 million of profits this

year, a price/earnings multi-

ple of over 18 makes the

shares look expensive.

Analysts' estimates are

being refined in. Paul Stanley

at Kleinwort Benson sticks

with a gloomy £25 million

for 10.25p of earnings, how-

ever, pointing out that it will

take 40 per cent growth over

each of the next three years

to restore earnings to their

1989-90 levels. At 249p,

Forte sells for 12.5 times its

expected 1994-5 earnings.

The rest of the market has

some catching up to do.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Property slump puts Helical Bar in red

HELICAL Bar, the property group run by Michael Slade, has reported a pre-tax loss of £6.5 million for 1991, compared with a £2.7 million profit in 1990. Most of the damage to the pre-tax figure was done by a £4.6 million provision against an office development on the City fringes, which was taken as an exceptional item. An external valuation had shown property values to be almost unchanged on last year, but the provisions and losses reduced the group's net asset per share from 258p to 220p.

Gross property profits slid from £25.3 million to £16.3 million, as turnover slumped from £74.7 million to £31.2 million. The lower property profits failed to cover the group's interest charge, down sharply from £21.4 million to £16.7 million after £47 million of property sales reduced borrowings, and administrative costs, also lower at £2.8 million. The company said further reduction in interest and overheads could be expected this year. As a result of the losses the final dividend has been cut from 7.6p to 1.6p, to make a total of 4p (10p).

TIP sells hire arm

TIP Europe, the trailer rental group, has sold the business and non-fleet assets of its loss-making CS1 Truck & Trailer Hire subsidiary to Unilink Contract Hire for £1.7 million. The price equals CS1's net book value. Unilink, a subsidiary of Transport Development Group, has also leased the rental fleet. David Callier, TIP's chief executive, said the sale would release additional capital for the group's strategy of concentrating its resources on higher-margin activities. TIP shares firmed 1p to 52p.

Barlows pegs payout

BARLOWS, the property investment and development group, is maintaining its dividend despite full-year losses. The Cheshire company, which slid into the red at the interim stage, reports a pre-tax loss of £39.000 for 1991 (£415,000 profit). Turnover dipped to £1.99 million (£2.08 million). The final dividend is maintained at 1.65p, giving an unchanged 2.475p for the year. There is a loss of 0.77p per share against earnings of 1.23p a share last time. The net asset value fell 10 per cent to 85.2p (94.9p).

Airbreak flies higher

IN THE 12 months to the end of December, Airbreak Leisure Group, the tour operator, increased pre-tax profits from £710,000 to £1.63 million, exceeding last year's flotation forecast by almost 9 per cent. Earnings rose from 1.74p a share to 5.92p. There is a maiden dividend of 1.3125p a share, as forecast. The shares were unchanged at 60p, compared with a placing price of 25p last August. Bookings have increased significantly since the general election.

Waste firm up 52%

WASTE Management International, the non-American arm of the Chicago waste disposal group, has announced figures for the first three months of 1992 only a day after the shares started trading on the London Stock Market. Pre-tax profits rose 52 per cent to £27 million and earnings per share were 42 per cent higher at 5.1p. The float raised £405 million for the company. No forecasts were contained in the prospectus. The shares, floated at 585p, rose 7p to 655p yesterday.

Lasmo sells tankers

LASMO, the oil and gas company, is to sell three Suezmax

148,000 tonne oil tankers under construction in South Korea. Together with the previously announced sale of two bulk ore carriers, its net cash proceeds from the sales are estimated at \$125 million. The sales form part of Lasmo's programme to sell assets gained from its takeover of Ultramar other than upstream oil and gas interests. Chris Greenstreet, chief executive of Lasmo, said plans to invest Ultramar's refining and marketing assets were progressing.

Golden Vale ahead

GOLDEN Vale, the Irish food and agribusiness group has begun to reap the benefits of last year's acquisitions, reporting earnings per share up 14 per cent at 8.54 Irish pence for the year to end-December. Turnover increased to £129.5 million (£27.1 million) from £120.7 million. Pre-tax profits were up 18 per cent at £14.7 million after a more than doubled net interest charge of 1.8 million. A final 0.94p (0.78p) dividend makes 1.36p for the year, a 19 per cent increase.

Merrill Lynch soars

PROFITS of Wall Street stockbrokers and investment banks, already running at record levels, continued to climb in the first three months of this year. Merrill Lynch, America's largest stockbroker, reported a 53 per cent rise in first-quarter profits from \$181 million to \$277.5 million on total income up 24 per cent to \$2.2 billion. Primerica Corporation more than doubled first-quarter net profits to \$20.8 million. Profits of Charles Schwab, based in San Francisco, rose to \$29.7 million.

Newarthill plummets

NEWARTHILL, a civil engineering company owned by the McAlpine family, sank further into the red in the year to October. An exceptional loss of £25 million on a property joint venture helped to take the pre-tax loss to £42.8 million, compared with a £2.2 million loss a year earlier. The one bright spot was a cut in interest payments from £18 million to £12.9 million. Property写downs caused an extraordinary loss of £33.4 million, against a £23.1 million extraordinary profit last time. There is no dividend.

IBM back in black

IBM, the world's largest computer maker, returned to the black in the first three months of this year, helped by cost-cutting and higher American sales. John Akers, chairman, said the world economic picture remained unpredictable but the figures were encouraging. The shares jumped more than a dollar to \$88 in early trading yesterday. Net profits came out at \$595 million, compared with a net loss of \$1.7 billion for the same quarter last year. Sales totalled \$14 billion, up from \$13.6 billion.

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Win on wheels

City again declines Kuwaiti stake in Midland Bank

BY NEIL BENNETT AND LULU YU

THE Kuwait Investment Office has once again failed to place a 7.7 per cent stake in Midland Bank among City investors as hopes are fading among institutional investors for a counteroffer.

Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, tried to place 60 million shares at 362p with institutions through a tender offer as they had on Tuesday afternoon. They are believed to have found firm takers for up to 45 million shares, but needed to find takers for the

entire 60 million on offer for the transaction to take place. Midland's share price fell 1p to 364p and Hoare withdrew the offer in the late afternoon.

Institutions summed the tender offer since it was only 2p below the market price of 364p; many think a counteroffer is now unlikely and do not want to subscribe to shares in HSBC Holdings, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking group. Fund managers have been hoping for a counteroffer from Lloyds, but Lloyds

shares yesterday rose 12p to 402p as the market began to appreciate the regulatory obstacles to a hostile offer.

A strong rise in HSBC's share price in Hong Kong since the bid was announced, however, has lifted the value of its bid for Midland. HSBC's offer, masterminded by William Purves, its chairman, is offering one share and one 100p bond for every Midland share. HSBC shares were trading in London at 291p yesterday, while gilt analysts estimated the value of the ten-year bond as up to 108p, giving a bid value to almost 400p, against the stated offer price of 378p.

Institutional investors,

however, have had mixed reactions to the offer. One said:

"This is not enough. I do not like the bonds since they will be dead money, and I am reluctant to vote in favour even if there is no counteroffer."

Others have been more positive. "The market has started to talk the price up in the hope of a potential bidding war, but the new bank will be a significant constituent of the FTSE 100 index and we will want to hold the shares."

Meanwhile, HSBC's offer for the Midland group came as a shot in the arm for the Hang Seng index yesterday and it jumped 102 points, or 2 per cent, to 2986. The real star was Hang Seng Bank, HSBC's 61-per cent subsidiary. The local bank's share price soared HK\$2.50 to HK\$39, up 7 per cent.

With HSBC poised to shift its headquarters and the bulk of its assets to Europe, Hong Kong Bank's role as a quasi-central bank is being called into question. The bank issues 85 per cent of Hong Kong's banknotes, acts as clearing house and is the deposit bank for the government's secret exchange fund, a fund used to maintain liquidity in the money market.

To Lo, economic adviser to China and a former adviser to the Hong Kong governor, said: "The question to ask now is whether the bank is still suitable to be a note-issuer in Hong Kong."



Smiths Industries wins defence deals

SMITHS Industries, the medical systems aerospace and industrial group, says it is winning new defence orders and that its net cash balances stand at £95 million up from £79 million six months ago.

In the half year ended February 1, Smiths recorded sales of £307.4 million (£288 million), and made pre-tax profits of £44.3 million (£50.7 million). The interim dividend rises 5 per cent to 4.1p a share. Roger Hurn, chairman and chief executive, said, profits from medical systems rose by 17 per cent and industrial profits increased from £7.1 million to £8 million.

Profits from aerospace operations, however, fell by a quarter to £18.2 million, reflecting difficult trading conditions, although it was an achievement that profit mar-

gins of 10 per cent were obtained in such circumstances.

Order books in the aerospace division have increased, and though this involves investment in company-funded development projects that depresses current profits, such investments will bear fruit in the coming years, Mr Hurn says.

The medical division performed well in Europe and North America and Middle East markets were stronger. Firm orders are now being generated from eastern Europe, Mr Hurn adds. Flexible Technologies in America, acquired last year, also made a significant contribution.

Smiths says that it is successfully weathering the economic recession and that the group's low cost base in good stead when market conditions improve.

Japan expected to show fall in output

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL output in Japan, manufacturing powerhouse of the Asia-Pacific region, suffered its first annual decline since the mid-Eighties in the fiscal year that ended last month, figures from the ministry of international trade and industry in Tokyo are expected to show.

Output is believed to have declined 0.4 per cent after expanding 5.6 per cent in 1990-1. The Miti forecast is based on its latest estimate for March. Published government figures show that industrial production fell three months in a row to February, its worst decline for more than a decade.

Jean Claude Payne, secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, said in Tokyo that Japan's financial bubble had been deflated with caution and the road

had been paved for a sound economic recovery. He said Japan and other key economies look set to emerge from their economic downturns.

The OECD expects average growth in its member countries to pick up to about 2 per cent this year from 1 per cent in 1991.

Rising exports and falling imports enabled western Germany to bounce back into surplus on trade of DM1.6 billion in February from a DM412 million deficit in January, according to the federal statistics office.

Final west German cost of living data for March showed inflation running at 4.8 per cent instead of the 4.7 per cent initially reported.

This compares with an annual rise of 4.3 per cent in February. The year-on-year rise in March was the highest for nearly ten years.



Purves: mastermind

Banks give credit card riposte

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Credit Card Research Group, the bank-controlled pressure organisation, has hit back at claims by retailers that they are being overcharged on credit and debit card transactions. New data from the group show that Britain has some of the lowest credit card charges in Europe, and that they have fallen 30 per cent in the past five years. Britain's 1.6 per cent fees compare with a 2.2 per cent average in Spain and 2.15 in Germany.

Banks are trying to impose increases on their charges for processing credit card sales, known as merchant acquisition, for retailers by 10 per

cent, and are thought to want to raise the price of debit card transactions by even more. The move has provoked a stormy response from retailers, who say the banks are unilaterally trying to impose the cost increases.

"The latest to attack the increase is a spokesman said that the cost of running its 1,640 petrol stations will rise by £1.5 million and that it will have to pass on the increase to customers. "Increased bank charges could send pump prices up again, without providing one extra benefit for the motorist," said Chris Ensor, BP's technology manager. Retailers are consider-

ing taking action against the banks. Possible sanctions include dual pricing, where credit card customers would pay more, or even a boycott of plastic cards. The second option however is unlikely since cards now account for 40 per cent of all sales at many retailers.

"The retailers are getting carried away with their own rhetoric," said Elizabeth Phillips, the director of the card research group. "You never saw them handing money back to their customers when bank charges were coming down, but now they are threatening to pass on the increase."

yesterday that, following complaints to the US Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission, were planning protectionist measures against selected steel companies from Britain, France, Germany and Brazil. These would include anti-dumping duties of 53 per cent against United Engineering of Britain; 69 per cent against Usinor Sacilor and Ascometal, of France; and 79 per cent against Thyssen and Saarstaedt, of Germany. In addition, countervailing duties of 10 to 25 per cent would be added.

This would be a return to the harassment bitterly experienced by US trading partners in 1982 and 1984 and be clearly at variance with the public declarations of the United States government emphasising the need to liberalise the steel trade," the commission said.

Anti-dumping and countervailing

duties are allowed under Gatt rules when unfair competition can be proved. American officials claim international steel subsidies amounted to \$37 billion in the Eighties and say they have not been eliminated. In Europe, they accuse Britain and Germany of paying at least 20 per cent of the industry's costs.

An EC official said recently that he believed Washington had simply bowed to pressure from the steel industry lobby in the run-up to the US elections. Inland Steel, one complainant, recorded its largest-ever loss last year — £151 million — and it plans to shed 3,500 jobs in the next three years. The accusations over steel reflect a growing suspicion in Brussels that, under intense domestic pressure, American politicians are becoming more isolationist and sacrificing free trade principles.

During their trip to Washington

next Wednesday, M Delors and António Calvário Silva, Portugal's prime minister, will meet President Bush, James Baker, secretary of state, Edward Markey, agriculture secretary, and Carla Hills, US trade representative. "It's an imposing delegation," M Delors spokesman said.

The talks will centre on attempts to jump start the near-moribund Gatt talks, with agriculture the focus. The steel issue only clouds the transatlantic trade war further, as well as agriculture, the two sides cannot agree on trade in services, and although an accord on civil aviation subsidies relating to the Airbus dispute was provisionally forged two weeks ago, US negotiators have since refused to sign any agreement.

The American authorities will decide whether to go ahead with anti-dumping and countervailing duties on steel by May 4.

Delors criticises US selective steel duty threat

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday strongly criticised American plans to slap anti-dumping and countervailing duties on EC-made steel, and threatened to take the issue before Gatt authorities in Geneva.

The argument over steel, in the grips of worldwide recession, has been likely to boil over since the start of the month when American trade officials refused to renegotiate a voluntary multilateral accord that has limited steel exports to America to 20.2 per cent of the market.

With trade in steel valued at £63 billion annually, and with the European industry in crisis, Jacques Delors, commission president, will attack Washington on its protectionist stance when he visits the capital next week. The commission revealed

Higgs cuts payout as profits disappear

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

HIGGS & Hill, the house-building, construction and property group, has announced a deep fall in the year almost exactly a year to the day after it asked shareholders to support a £25 million rights issue.

The shares put on 4p to 88p in a rising market, compared with the 260p price of the two-for-seven rights issue last year.

The company said that it had held back on investing the funds raised after it became clear that the "widely predicted" recovery in the economy was not going to materialise.

The cash raised allowed Higgs & Hill to preserve its balance sheet strength and end the year with net assets only 1 per cent down at £85.6 million.

Net borrowings at the December 31 year-end were £16.8 million, giving gearing of 19 per cent.

The loss before tax for the year was £10.7 million, compared with a profit of £6.8 million for the previous year. The damage was done by a slump in operating profits from £18.6 million to £7 million and a £20.9 million exceptional item consisting mainly of property writedowns.

In the peak year of 1989 Higgs & Hill made pre-tax profits of £26.6 million.

Sir Brian Hill, the chairman, said that the results "should be viewed within the context of the unprecedented adverse conditions imposed on our markets by the recession in the UK, which deepened throughout 1991".

The final dividend is being slashed from 14p to 3p, giving a 9p payout for the year compared with 20p for 1990.

At the time of the rights issue the company forecast a maintained dividend. Payment of the dividend requires a £23.7 million transfer from reserves.

Sir Brian said that the proposed dividend "recognises the strength of the balance sheet and the importance of dividend income to our shareholders".

He added that the 3p final dividend, "together with an appropriate interim dividend, should be seen as the base for future payments".

Below the line net extraordinary costs of £7.5 million included the £3.8 million cost of closing the company's specialist engineering business and £4.8 for provisions and losses on disposals.

The sharpest fall in trading profits was seen in the construction division where profits fell from £8.3 million to £2.6 million.

Profits from property were £1.3 million and from the housing sector £295,000.

Tie Rack recovers to £1.03m profit

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Tie Rack advanced by 9p to 40p after the specialist tie, scarf and accessories retailer staged a healthy recovery and pleased the City with a bounce in full-year profits despite the difficult trading background.

Progress made in reorganising the American business, improved margins and a hefty reduction in interest charges enabled a surge in pre-tax profits to £1.03 million (£1.00) in the year to February 2.

Roy Bishko, the chairman, said that trading so far this

year had shown a healthy improvement over the previous year. "We are holding quite firm in the tough market. All our shops are busy and our customer spend is up," he added. Average customer spend in London is now about £12 per head.

Sales grew by 1.3 per cent to £54.5 million, with the total number of stores up four to 257. However, like-for-like sales fell, reflecting the difficult conditions in the first half, which had been depressed by the Gulf war.

Mr Bishko said four new stores have been opened since the year-end, with this

year's total new openings expected to rise to about ten.

"One of the reasons we have come through the exceptionally difficult conditions is that our products are very good in terms of value, quality and design," Mr Bishko said.

Operating profits from UK operations declined to £2.84 million (£2.5 million), on turnover of £34.1 million (£33.7 million), while losses from the American operations were cut to £856,000 (£1.13 million). Restructuring and shop closure costs led to an exceptional charge of £504,000. Strong internal

cash generation, lower interest rates and the proceeds from last June's rights issue enabled interest payments to fall to £539,000, down from £1.75 million last time. The company had year-end net cash of £3.8 million.

Tie Rack has kept the pledge it made at the time of the rights issue and is paying a single dividend of 0.5p [nil] for 1991.

Earnings stood at 1.99p a share, against a deficit of 1.79p a share last time. Mr Bishko said he viewed the future with cautious optimism. "We are on the right track," he added.

Anglo American deep gold mine will employ 5,000

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL output in America posted its second successive monthly rise in March, while the increase in business sales the previous month was the strongest for ten months, the latest official data show.

Economists were quick to focus on the modest 0.2 per cent rise in output in March at the nation's factories, mines and utilities, and the downward revised 0.5 per cent rise in February, as evidence of the continued frailty of the recovery.

In the four months to January, industrial output showed no increase and March output was still 1 per cent below the same month last year.

The brighter picture provided by a 1.4 per cent jump in business sales in February, while stocks held steady, raised hopes that demand will start to feed through into higher production soon. The commerce department reported an 0.9 per cent rise in business sales in January.

Industrial production in March was boosted by a 2.1 per cent surge in output by the utilities, mainly reflecting a strong demand for energy arising from cold weather affecting much of the country.

Factory output, in contrast, showed only a 0.1 per cent rise in March. Mining and oil production fell 0.2 per cent.

Industry's capacity edged up to 78.1 per cent from 78 per cent in February.

The weakness shown in the industrial production figures, which are prepared by the Federal Reserve Board, probably prompted last week's signal that it wanted the fed funds interest rate to be lower.

Gencor, South Africa's second largest mining group,

says its Bracken gold mine is raising its interim dividend from ten cents to 20 cents and that dividends are maintained at Kivrost (115 cents) and at Lesile (five cents).

Unisel is cutting its interim dividend from ten cents to five cents and Winkleback, which last year passed its final dividend, now passes its 1992 interim dividend.

Profit after tax and capital expenditure at Gencor's gold mine in the quarter to March 31 were 45.6 per cent higher than in the December quarter, and were 34.8 per cent up on a year ago.

Sir Derek Birkin, chair-

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COMMENT

Ill wind from the Continent

Since the election, money market interest rates have begun to edge in favour of a cut rather than the precautionary rise they were signalling. If, however, Norman Lamont had turned his face expectantly to Europe's banking elders, hoping perhaps for some encouraging signals to help him deliver an Easter push to economic confidence, he would have received only a stern slap. The annual report of the committee of EC central bank governors, taken with their *obiter dicta*, confirmed worst fears about the ERM.

Lower interest rates should not be expected, they said. Their reasoning, however, seemed to bear almost solely on the shocking lapses of Germany and the Netherlands, hitherto the Batman and Robin of European monetary rectitude. Inflation may have eased marginally from 5.7 per cent to 5.1 per cent last year across the Community, but it had got worse where it mattered. Governments' borrowing had risen too high, wage claims were excessive and lower interest rates were likely to conflict with efforts to keep prices under control.

That does not look much like a picture of Britain this spring. The unpleasant vision is aimed squarely at trade unions in Germany, where the most powerful public sector union is about to ballot its members for strike action to break the Federal government's patchy resolve to steer settlements into line with inflation. Sterling may have gained half a dozen pennies but that does not greatly improve Mr Lamont's room for manoeuvre on interest rates. A cheering half point cut still looks feasible, but this is a matter of paring the already modest premium in sterling over mark rates. Steering the pound into the narrow band of the ERM would have similarly modest objectives. Mr Lamont may wait until the Bundesbank has finished its glaring match with the unions and might be pressured to ease policy.

If only Bundesbank virtue is to carry reward, however, the obverse will surely apply the nearer we approach monetary union and the more convinced markets become that sterling and franc parities are there to stay. Mr Lamont may be tempted to tip the wick to Michael Portillo, his chief secretary, that a sternly dry man in the face of public spending demands need not be backed by tough action, any more than before the election.

Fine judgment

The failed efforts of the Kuwait Investment Office to bale out of Midland Bank shares, before the Honkong Bank group has even produced its formal offer document, have caused some puzzlement. The most straightforward and likely explanation is that its placing terms are pitched too finely. The KIO shares appear to have been on sale at a discount of about 4 per cent of the value put on the HSBC bid, hardly mouth-watering given the length of time which may be required to consummate the marriage and the risk if anything should go wrong. The new government will probably see no reason to block the bid. Few competition issues are involved and HSBC's plan to move domicile to London, where it will come under the regulatory eye of the Bank of England, should avoid any objection from that quarter. With a fair wind, buyers of KIO's shares could still be out of cash for up to 6 months, possibly leaving only a penny or two of profit on the deal, which is scarcely worth the trouble and residual risk.

What the attempted sale does indicate is that the canny men at KIO have no faith whatsoever in a higher offer from Hongkong Bank or of the much vaunted counterbid from Lloyds. They are usually not bad judges of horseflesh.

Colin Narbrough says
most of the economic
soothsayers have failed
dismally to point
British industry in
the right direction

The past 12 months have been bad for opinion pollsters and economic forecasters. Both went badly astray in their own specialised field of soothsaying but will undoubtedly survive the ignominy. What of the consequences? In one case they will almost certainly prove to be of fleeting significance as election memories fade. In the other, real damage has been done to business confidence and willingness to invest in plant and equipment.

The recession has been lengthened and perhaps even deepened by the collapse in confidence towards the end of 1991 when the long-forecast recovery failed to put in an appearance on time. The prudent businessman rightly decided that he would believe in recovery only when he could touch and see it personally. There are no boardroom accolades for executives who invest into a black hole.

Last year, there was a near unanimous view from the forecasters that Britain's economy was turning the corner after the guns fell silent in the Gulf. Wrong. Whether their economic models were demand-based, more monetarist in their approach (like some City analysts) or a mixture of the two, the forecasters, with a few honourable exceptions, boldly led businessmen into the wilderness of phantom upturns.

Whatever factors political analysts eventually credit for the government's election victory, you can be sure they will not include skill at economic forecasting. For months the main interest in economic signals was as a factor in the election rather than as any reliable guide to the poor businessman wondering whether he should prepare for renewed expansion or apparently endless recession. The figures even failed the policymakers.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, made plain, in his Durham lecture in 1990, that official misinterpretation of the economic data was a reason why policy failed to pick up the sharp acceleration in inflation in the late Eighties. "We put the brakes on when the speedometer indicated we were doing 60 mph. Some time later it said we were doing 55. When the tachograph was opened, however, it revealed that we had actually been doing 70 when the speedometer read 60," Mr Leigh-Pemberton said. A hard pull of the monetary reins pushed the base rate up to 15 per cent, ultimately producing recession.

If the Bank of England and the Treasury, with their economic models employing statistical and mathematical methods to verify and develop economic theories, failed to spot the inflationary threat, it is



Anyone's guess: Mr Lamont's green shoots wither, while the Bank bumps along the bottom

hard to imagine how most firms could be expected to foresee the dramatic deterioration in economic conditions as boom turned to bust. The sheer cost of economic analysis and prediction puts it beyond all but the authorities, the largest companies and financial dealers and academically oriented research institutes. Most firms have to rely on official or City forecasters to provide the big picture against which they must gauge their options.

Macro-economic forecasting is without doubt difficult, especially in an open economy such as ours. Colin Robinson, professor of economics at the University of Surrey, points out in his foreword to *The State of the Economy 1992*, that those seeking to predict macroeconomic events are "significantly in error most of the time". This shortcoming is, furthermore, the focus of public attention at actual or supposed turning points in the economy.

Professor Robinson, who notes that the past year has been particularly bad for forecasters, argues that the past has proved an "extremely imperfect" guide to those trying to predict the response of consumers and investors after a long period of growth and structural change in the Eighties. His hope is that such a chastening experience will lead fore-

casters to adapt their methods to the changing economic regime. In an illuminating article in its *Quarterly Bulletin* last August, the Bank of England said its econometric model had been altered considerably over the Eighties to reflect important changes in the way the economy operates, specifically citing City deregulation as an example. Inaccuracies in data had been a "major and increasing source of actual or apparent forecast error," it revealed.

Econometric modelling was not condemned. Indeed, the Bank concluded that the importance attached to modelling and forecasting as a discipline for coherent analysis of economic questions has not diminished. It underlined, however, that the quality of basic economic data was crucial to accurate forecasting and that it shared the concern of the Treasury, the Commons treasury and civil service committee, and outside users over the deterioration in quality since the mid-Eighties and the importance of steps to improve it.

The speed at which the Treasury has shifted ground during the recession would suggest an urgent need for improved data collection and forecasting techniques. John Major

admitted in November 1990 that Britain was in recession, but assured us it would be the briefest and shallowest downturn in decades. In the event, the 0.5 per cent growth officially predicted for 1991 turned out to be a contraction of 2.4 per cent.

Only last November, as the "green shoots" of recovery hopes withered, Mr Lamont was still expecting a fall of 2.1 per cent. As the Bank of England predicted last summer, we are still bumping along the bottom.

A feature of Treasury behaviour last year was its attempt to align its views more readily with current consensus in the City and academia. Defenders of the Treasury's record recall that the consensus forecast for GDP at the time of the last autumn statement was a contraction of 2.2 per cent. Some individual forecasters were more accurate, but most were over-optimistic.

Despite the risk that forecasters prefer the protection of the herd and seek to stay with the consensus view, many business folk, corporate planners, company treasurers and fund managers invest a great deal of trust in consensus data. David Kern, chief economist at National Westminster Bank, chairs the Society of Business Economists forecasting group. The panel produces a forecast twice a year, and annually

contributes to a more consensual survey that includes the views taken by economists from the City, the Treasury and economic institutes.

Mike Sykes, editor of *Consensus Economics*, makes no secret of the fact that the 35 forecasting institutions his publication covers were "fairly wrong" in 1990-1. More reliable than the consensus, or quasi-consensus, approach are the surveys, such as those produced by the Confederation of British Industry, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce or business information companies.

Based on responses from large samples of companies to questions on actual and expected performance, they have tended to track the path of the ups and downs of the economy with considerable accuracy. The October CBI trends survey soured hopes of recovery last year. Andrew Sentance, head of economics at the CBI, emphasises the value of getting a fix on what is currently happening in the economy.

For businesses, an accurate picture of the economy is important for budgetary purposes. According to Dr Sentance, "a forecast affects the way you act". But he does not underplay the importance of a firm's own ability to foster success. As to the quality of forecasts in general in recent years, he believes the problem lies more with the volatility of the British economy than with analysts. Another problem is the over-focus on short-term forecasts to the neglect of the medium-term.

Nick Boucher, head of strategic planning at Glynwed, the engineering group, is openly dismissive of forecasts, as he believes that nobody can predict more than nine months ahead with any accuracy. "It would be exceedingly foolish for any company to rely on any economic forecasts," he said. Apart from certain sectors, where companies have to look far ahead, he thinks companies are better served by generating their own business and reacting to market currents. Instead of vesting hope in forecasts, Dr Boucher favours "scenario-planning" to establish how the company will react to a range of possible developments.

Richard Freeman, chief economist at ICI, the chemical group and bellwether of Britain's industrial health, produces in-house forecasts with his team, a luxury only the biggest companies can afford. While a follower of CBI surveys, he uses partly model-based forecasts for the chemical industry for which macroeconomic forecasters produce inadequate detail.

At the other end of the scale, Stan Mendenhall, founder of the Forum for Private Business, a lobby group for small business, sees little merit in forecasting. Small firms, highly susceptible to change in the environment, simply need economic growth and monetary stability to thrive, he says. The vast majority of Britain's small firms, and many larger companies too, still appear to fly by the seat of their pants and are largely reactive, with little time for economic forecasts — good or bad.

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Inns and outs of rent row

B

Asking for funds

THE charity "Just Ask", which looks after abused and homeless young people in London, is yet another casualty of Friday's bomb blast in the City. It moved into new premises in Bishopsgate at the end of March, behind the Baltic Exchange, only to have all its windows blown out and the top floors of its building badly damaged by the explosion. Just Ask, which had been given three years' rent-free accommodation by Legal & General, now faces a substantial bill for repairs at a time when funds are tight. Davina Liley, a director, is appealing for donations. Meanwhile, she was yesterday seeing young clients for business as usual. "We'll carry on working in and around the workmen," she says stoically.

Hands-on lesson

MENTION to the Abdullah brothers, Raschid and Osman, that you are thinking of leaving the City and going into business and you had better be prepared for the consequences. Rupert Lewin, corporate finance director at Robert Fleming, the Abdullahs' broker, did just that and found himself wafted from the luxury of Copthall Avenue to SI Industries, a loss-making manufacturer of beer coolers in east Croydon. The Abdullahs acquired SI as part of Starmain, their new, fully quoted, quarry company, which, they hope, is set to repeat their impressive growth record. Evershed in the Eighties. Undeterred by his inauspicious surroundings, Lewin, 36, has now been turning SI round since last July and will receive his reward as part of a buyout worth more than £1 million, which should eventually leave him owning 50 per cent of SI's shares. Lewin, following the example set by the Abdullahs, now hopes to establish his own vehicle, which he can

heighten by the fact that he fell only five days into the start of the season, which begins on February 1. At one stage, his injuries were so debilitating that he was forced to miss the annual Weald dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, a spirited affair organised by Robert Wilson Stephen, TA major and former Weald partner, otherwise known as "Major Woof Woof" or "the rhino" — because of his stature and not his former colleagues. His friends assure me, the thickness of his hide.

Holiday casualty

ONE City of London bomb casualty, albeit indirect, has been Andrew Fleming-Wiliams, managing director of Winterthur Insurance (UK). He had to cut short his skiing holiday to sort out his company's accommodation problem. Winterthur's offices, located on the fourth floor of the Commercial Union building, were wrecked in the explosion. He says: "Broken furniture, shattered glass everywhere, filing cabinets turned over, rain pouring in, a real horror story. I now need 6,000 sq ft of City space in a hurry. Fortunately, there's quite a lot of it about." He adds that, at Geneva airport on Monday, as he awaited his return flight, he spotted Sir Richard Rogers, the architect, among the passengers, and asked him how his controversial Lloyd's of London building had fared.

Rogers expressed considerable surprise. He had been so busy harrying down pistes that he was totally unaware of the bomb. CAROL LEONARD

IT MIGHT have turned out to be a better year for the stock market than the City had feared, but for Richard Russell, BZW director, employed on the firm's sterling bond side, it had already been a year he would rather forget. Russell, 44, a keen amateur jockey, is all but recovered from an accident he suffered at Ludlow in February — he fractured his jaw and several vertebrae when the rest of the field trampled on him — and has been advised not to ride again until the end of May, a date that coincides with the end of the season. "It's very frustrating," Russell says. "I've ridden over 50 winners and I was the leading hunter chase rider in the country last season." His frustration is

eventually taken, and says that the opportunity given to him by the Abdullah brothers has been invaluable. "If I'd gone straight into a public company without this hands-on experience, I'd probably have come a cropper," he says.

Rueful Russell

"I've ridden over 50 winners and I was the leading hunter chase rider in the country last season." His frustration is

heightened by the fact that he fell only five days into the start of the season, which begins on February 1. At one stage,

his injuries were so debilitating that he was forced to miss the annual Weald dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, a spirited affair organised by Robert Wilson Stephen, TA major and former Weald partner, otherwise known as "Major Woof Woof" or "the rhino" — because of his stature and not his former colleagues. His friends assure me, the thickness of his hide.

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Rogers expressed considerable surprise. He had been so busy harrying down pistes that he was totally unaware of the bomb.

CAROL LEONARD

Shopping around for a good deal

From Mr M. J. Holden

Sir, So Mr Malpas of Tesco considers that "consumers in this country get an astonishingly good deal compared with their counterparts of the Continent" (April 8).

My personal experience does not support his contention. In the year prior to my departure from Belgium my housekeeping bills were £3,900; for the year following my return to the UK they were £3,600. I would not call a difference of £300 "an astonishingly good deal", and it has been achieved only by altering my shopping pat-

tern. In the first three months following my return to the UK I was spending 5 per cent more in Belgium where I bought almost all my food in supermarkets. I no longer do so but shop around. In particular, I find that fruit and vegetables are often up to 25 per cent more expensive in UK supermarkets than in Norwich city market and the choice and their quality much worse in UK than in Belgian supermarkets.

Yours faithfully,

M. J. HOLDEN,
15 Princess Beatrice Close,
Norwich.

Plea for justice over Abbey shares

From Ms Rose Clouts

Sir, I was heartened to read the letter from Mr Michael May (April 9) regarding his report on the unclaimed shares following the Abbey National stock market flotation.

I was one of those members who were unfairly treated.

My husband was knocked down by a car and died as a result of his injuries on April 18, 1989 and, as a result, I, as second joint holder of two accounts with the society, did not receive any free shares. Nor was I permitted to purchase the minimum of 100

shares offered to other members before the general flotation.

All my efforts to obtain fair treatment prior to the conversion date, including a personal appeal to the chairman of the board, were to no avail.

Subsequent attempts have been equally unsuccessful.

Perhaps, as Mr May so rightly says, Abbey National should try to correct such obvious injustices.

Yours faithfully
ROSE CLOUTS,
506A Finchley Road,
London, NW11.

4 Bromley Lane,
Chislehurst, Kent.

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Business and Finance
section can be sent by
fax on 071-782 5112.

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Chislehurst, Kent.

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No.	Company	Group	Gains or loss
1	Waddington (9)	Paper/Print	
2	Pendragon	Motors/Air	
3	NPC	Transport	
4	Timmy Ind	Newspaper/Pub	
5	Blaauw	Cinema/Pics	
6	Slimknight	Industries	
7	Ocean Group	Transport	
8	Ling (9)	Building/Rds	
9	Cable Wireless	Electrical	
10	Bedroomes	Industrial	
11	Fors	Hospital/Cat	
12	Microgen	Electrical	
13	Baggeridge Rds	Building/Rds	
14	St Ives Gp	Paper/Print	
15	Shell	Oil/Gas	
16	Newman Tols	Building/Rds	
17	Artizus	Leisure	
18	HSBC	Bank/Div	
19	Lloyd Chase	Drapery/Stns	
20	Lamont	Textiles	
21	Shorthouse	Drapery/Stns	
22	Mifel	Electrical	
23	Let Services	Motors/Air	
24	Nat West	Bank/Div	
25	Cadbury-Schwe	Foods	
26	Alingspr	Industries	
27	Whitbread	Oil/Gas	
28	T & S Stores	Drapery/Stns	
29	CRT Gp	Textiles	
30	Iceland Frozen	Foods	
31	Eurocamp	Leisure	
32	Low (Wms)	Foods	
33	Southend Prop	Property	
34	Newhampton	Water	
35	Schrodmer	Bank/Div	
36	Br Land	Property	
37	Medical Ser	Property	
38	Worcester	Industrial	
39	Br Homes	Oil/Gas	
40	Ust Newspg/Pub	Drapery/Stns	
41	Jacques Vert	Drapery/Stns	
42	MB Canada	Industrial	
43	Ferguson Inc	Paper/Print	
44	Harland & Wolff	Industrial	

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1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

ELECTRICALS

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

INDUSTRIALS

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

LONGS (over 15 years)

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

Equities close at day's highs

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end April 24. Conzango day April 27. Settlement day May 5. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on midday prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Stock Price Net Yld % P/E

McCarthy (A) 193 ... 103 2.5 12.7

McCarthy (B) 193 ... 103 2.5 12.7

McKee Gp 147 ... 103 2.5 16.4

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ACCOUNTANCY TIMES

Being a partner no longer guarantees a job for life

Edward Fennell
finds firms are
using the recession
to discard
partners whose
faces do not fit

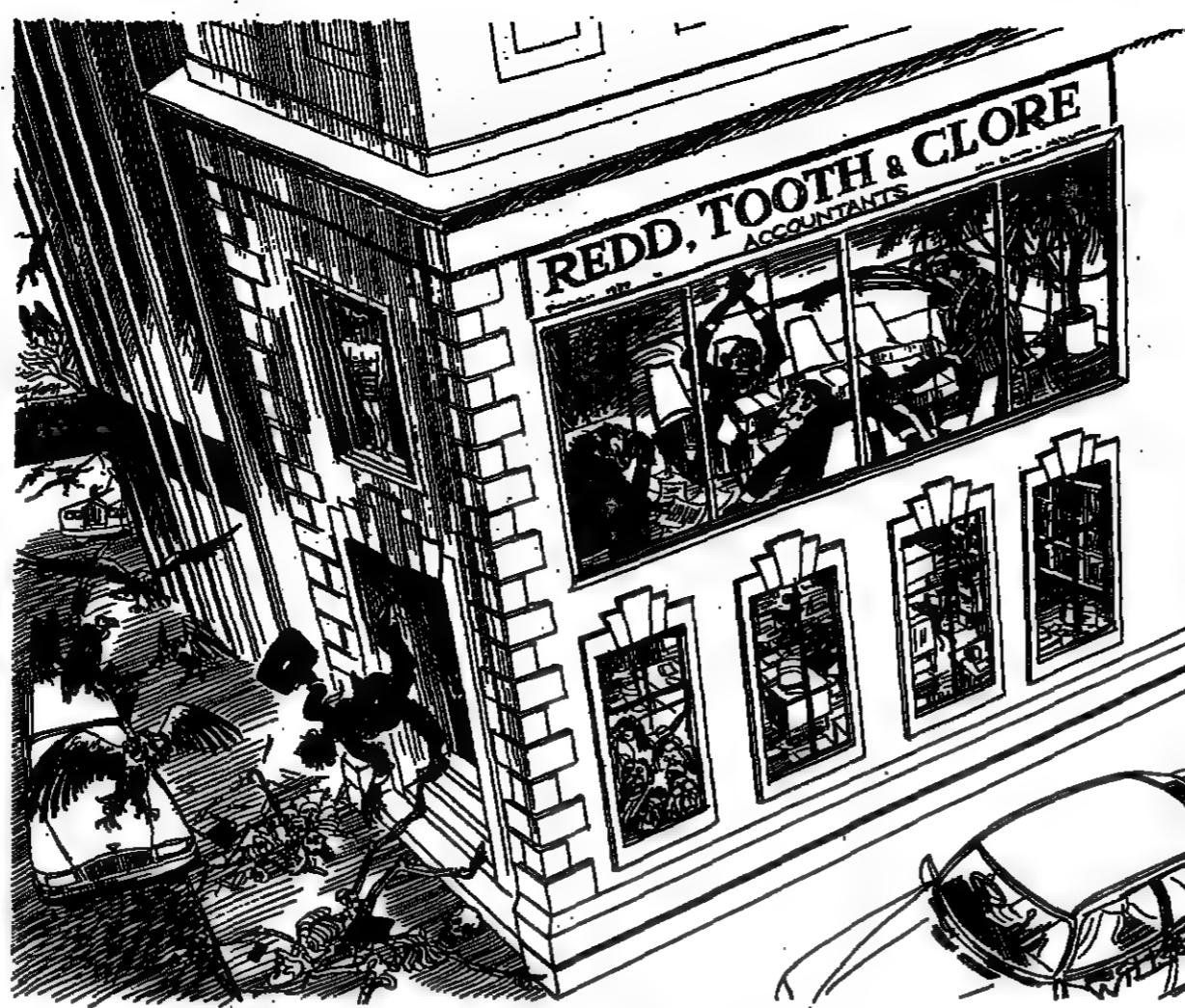
Parmers in accountancy firms used to be like aristocratic grandees, the masters of all they surveyed. Now, however, they are increasingly like cabinet ministers with executive powers but only precarious tenure on their jobs.

The past few months have seen growing numbers of partners being discarded by their firms as the recession cuts into profitability. This is not simply a matter of shrinking the size of firms to reflect a contraction in workload or pressure on fees.

Many firms, both medium and large, are using the recession to dispense with weaker partners or those deemed not to be performing to standard. In doing so, they are highlighting the gap between the proprietorial and managerial roles of partners. It used to be enough to own a slice of a firm to have a job guaranteed for life. But the progressively corporate style of accountancy firms has put that privilege under pressure.

For example, Nash Broad Wesson, a 17-partner firm in the West End of London, has recently introduced a sophisticated management reporting system called "Fair Shares for All", which tracks individual partner activities and provides, if need be, a sanction on drawings by those who are not performing to standard. Peter Part Head, the senior partner, said: "Partners now operate to very tight disciplines. And for the firm as a whole we have taken the opportunity of today's economy to get rid of some."

Among the larger firms there have also been casual-



ties, although in some cases these have been more on the management consultancy side than on auditing.

John Hayward, who runs the London practice of Price Waterhouse, said: "In the 1980s, making partner was regarded as being a terribly secure situation. Now we have to ensure that we are really certain of the quality standards we apply."

Because of the increasing cross-border integration of the business, PW is now undertaking work to try to ensure common partner standards across Europe. Because of its size, London has traditionally been a source of partners for offices elsewhere in

Europe in need of management talent. In part, this also helps to ease the bottleneck pressure on partnerships from the rising generation of accountants and management consultants. By itself, however, this is not enough to create room for rising talent. As a result, PW has a system of early retirement which, in John Hayward's words, is "fair to both sides".

Age does not necessarily diminish performance, but as one leading accountant with a big firm commented: "The technical demands are now much greater than they used to be and things are changing so fast that you really need to be on the ball to keep up."

Good management now dictates a change in approach: to partnership. "We have now moved into a per-

formance based culture and partners cannot be exempted from that. Moreover, you cannot pull up the drawbridge on partnership for younger people, so you need to be able to restructure and encourage older partners to take up outside interests."

According to Bob Simm, of KPMG Peat Marwick, however, the market is now too tough to allow for any complacency. "Price sensitivity and value for money is the biggest issue facing firms — the question of survival is now on the agenda," he says.

Good management now dictates a change in approach: to partnership. "We have now moved into a per-

Halfway down the path to change

Raymond Hinton examines the state of play in reforms to close the expectation gap

THE focus on the accounting profession is unprecedented and there is growing concern on the part of both public and government.

The debate has two broad strands, the "constitutional" issues, for example, self-regulation and the audit's role in corporate governance, and the "expectation" issues. Both strands are critical, but it is the profession's response to the "expectation" issues that cause most public concern.

The term "expectation gap" originally referred to the gulf between what the auditor believes he delivers and what the user believes he receives. More recently, the concept has widened to embrace most of the perceived shortcomings in financial reporting.

There are, of course, many "gaps". What are they, what has been achieved and what remains to be done?

The Eighties closed with almost universal accord that financial reporting had reached a nadir.

Vital areas of reporting were not covered by standards, rules that did exist were liberally interpreted, "creative accounting" abounded and comparability between businesses thwarted.

The omens for successful reform are good. The Accounting Standards Board has set itself an ambitious programme and important issues, such as the presentation of earnings and guidelines for management commentary and analysis of results, are at the top of its agenda. The review panel has fixed its sights on the public admonishment of some big listed companies and the urgent issues task force has begun to fill in some of the gaps. What we now await is evidence of a real change of climate in reporting from industry.

Few issues have shocked users more than to discover in the aftermath of financial collapse or sudden turn of fortune that the business lacked an adequate information system and/or proper systems of internal financial control.

Little wonder that there is growing demand to require listed companies to maintain adequate information systems and a proper system of internal financial control and for directors to tell

shareholders, based on the auditor's review of the systems, that they are satisfied with the systems and controls.

Subject to accord with business on what constitutes adequate management information and control system, the profession is broadly ready to review and report publicly. The final impetus must come from government.

Few would argue with the need to establish and enforce the highest standards. Here, much remains to be done. While the profession has long been required to apply demanding standards, the examinations of failed businesses occasionally suggest either directly or by implication, some defect in audit procedures. The observer is frequently left with at least circumstantial evidence that standards are wanting.

Yet while demanding standards are vital, most audit failure arises not from a lack of established standards but from human failure. Real quality and a more immediate response to the critics can come only from individual firms.

A key factor is the attitude and approach of partners. Greater scepticism, more willingness to challenge and some shift from the presumption that all management is honest are needed. In addition, the risk of audit failure would be greatly reduced if the procedures for the audits of listed companies included thorough consultation within firms of both reporting and auditing issues; oversight of the engagement by a second partner (to advise and concur); auditor involvement with interim statements and a move from the retrospective review of transactions to more continuous auditing.

As to auditing standards, the profession's determination to elevate standards is less convincing. While financial reporting has been adequately funded and resourced, the Auditing Practice Board is much less well able to address its backlog and keep pace with new developments.

In addition, the respective

institutes appear determined to pursue their own auditing initiatives. This imbalance and duplication should be addressed urgently by the professional bodies.

Few issues are more emotive than auditor allegiance.

Legally, the audit remains

part of the process whereby

shareholders review the

stewardship of management.

In contrast, society and,

increasingly, government,

believe that the audit is of much

wider public interest. Such

public interest would include

all of the current and pro-

spective users of financial

statements and include not

only shareholders, but em-

ployees, customers, suppli-

ers, banks and other provi-

dors of funds. It would also

include the many regulatory,

governmental and quasi-gov-

ernmental bodies that have

relationships with companies.

The profession is fearful

that any extension of its duty

of care could lead to financial

catastrophe in the event that

the audit is found wanting.

Here, there is a big dilemma for all concerned. Politically,

the profession must recogni-

se and respond to the wider

public interest, but it will not

survive economically if it ac-

cepts an expanded role without first obtaining some form of legal protection. This

could take the form of a

change in the law to permit

the courts to apportion damages and enable the auditor to limit his liability in line with most other businesses. While it is quite clear that the responsibility for preventing fraud rests with management, it is common ground that the audit should afford a reasonable expectation of detecting material fraud. The professional guidance is unequivocal on this and specifies when and how to report to management, shareholders and third parties (in the public interest).

Yet many issues remain.

The author is chairman of the committee on professional standards at Arthur Andersen



Ahead of the game

CITY firms pay telephone number salaries for the best economists, the brightest analysts and the most prescient forecasters. But their skills are not always enough to carry the day. In January, Reuters, the information group, invited a selection of City whiz-kids to its annual thrash in the Apothecaries' Hall. Guests were invited to enter a suitably themed competition asked by tackling four questions: When would the general election be held, what would the outcome be, where would the FTSE 100 index stand at the end of the following day and — what would the pound/mark exchange rate

be? The smartest brains in the Square Mile were no match for Oriana Mord, public relations manager at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, who predicted the correct date, a Tory win with a working majority, came within ten points of the closing Footsie figure and was out by a pence on the mark.

Bulgaria bound
COOPERS & Lybrand, as the firm will be known in Britain from June, has opened its first office in Bulgaria. The office in Sofia is believed to be the first to be opened there by one of the Big Six, but it seems a fair bet that others will follow. Coopers has also been helping develop-

up two stock exchanges in Czechoslovakia and is advising Moscow City Council on how to privatise itself.

Sporting life

FIERCE competition is set to break out between accountancy firms in the run-up to the fifth World Corporate Games, which take place in London from September 25 to October 4. Ernst & Young has thrown down the gauntlet to others in the Big Six by proposing to sponsor an "Accountants Cup". Up to 60 E&Y staff are going to sweat it out in a choice of 22 sports including athletics, badminton, basketball and bowls. Venues will include Crystal Palace, Wentworth

Opening Europe to competition

EUROPE has long been the greatest challenge for the accountancy profession. The global accounting firms have formed alliance after alliance with firms across Europe. These have stuck in some cases, shifted in others. The overview of which firm was linked with which bore more resemblance to diplomatic activity in the days when the Schleswig-Holstein question was uppermost in people's minds than important business.

firms into the Big Six and the second-tier firms works against the public interest.

On this, the Nera report almost falls over backwards in its attempts to be even-handed, and the results are somewhat bland.

It looks hard, for example, at the idea that the big firms get together and collude in fixing charge-out rates. "In at least two member states we have been informed that members of the Big Six meet together to exchange information about the charge-out rates on which their fees for audit and consultancy services are based."

Nera concludes, however, that "even if such exchanges are widespread, there is some distance between this position and the effective establishment of a collusive understanding."

"First, in preparing a bid price in response to a competitive tender, there is no assurance that full charge-out rates will be used, and in a competitive situation it is invariably the case that discounted rates will be employed. Second, competing bids in a tender situation may suggest quite different ways of tackling the task in question, with no guarantee that the number of person-hours or the composition of the team as between senior and junior staff will correspond. Third, even if successful collusion on price were possible, this would still leave open competition on quality of service. The uncertainty surrounding all three of these suggests that the characteristics of audit contract competition make this market highly unsuited to successful collusive behaviour."

The report also leaves open the question of how much further the market could allow mergers to reduce the number of big players. "Although a reduction from six to five players could threaten competition," the report says, "this is not generally the sort of market structure concentration which would necessarily lead a competition policy enquiry to an adverse finding."

This will not hearten the firms, though. Any further merger between the largest of the firms would certainly lead to regulatory problems on the other side of their global empire — in America.

But it is interesting to speculate. Early on in the report, Nera makes the point that the Big Six split neatly into two sections. Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse are generally acknowledged to have a more unified structure," it points out.

This is not necessarily a good thing. Much later on, the report concludes that "as a broad generalisation, we would say that two of the Big Six networks, Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse, have sought to use the same approach in expanding into member states where there is an established auditing profession. Measured by the fee income of the network member, this has generally been less effective in these member states than the approach adopted by KPMG, Coopers & Lybrand, DRT and Ernst & Young."

Who knows? Perhaps Andersen and Price Waterhouse should reopen the merger talks that founded so suddenly a few years ago.

• The author is the Associate Editor of Accountancy Age.

Review will spell out priorities for auditing practice in next century

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

YET another exercise in public consultation was started by the accountancy profession this week. The Auditing Practices Board has begun a strategic review of auditing practice, aimed at producing a report in the autumn that will set out key priorities for immediate and longer term change within a "vision" of the future direction of auditing into the next century.

The first step, says the APB, will be to find out how far auditors are meeting the needs and expectations of users of financial information.

The board cannot be accused of ignoring this crucial audit. Like the Financial Reporting Council, it includes non-practitioners. More daringly, it has chosen one of these, John McFarlane of Citibank, to head the review working party.

Letters have been sent to

almost 90 interested parties. They are invited to say what they really want from audits, without being prompted on issues such as costs, responsibility and independence of auditors, or what might be put in their reports to widen the choice between a clean "true and fair view" and the dreaded qualification.

This is splendidly responsible but will it earn much of a response? Not if the experience of the Accounting Standards Board is any guide.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, made this clear in his speech to the annual dinner of the Institute of Chartered Accountants last week. He said: "It is up to the users of accounts to make clear what they really want from them."

"So far, however, users have been notable for their virtual silence. Institutional

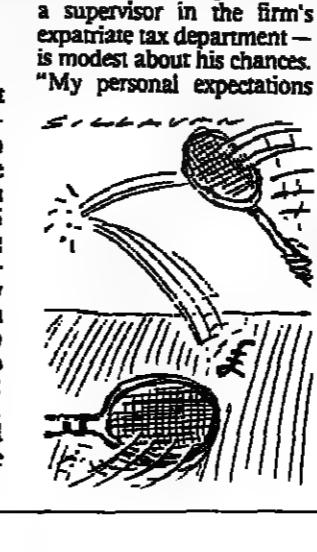
investors, brokers, analysts and even the banks seem with certain honourable exceptions, to have made little contribution to the public debate on corporate reporting, except when their interests have been directly affected. Unless users of accounts play their full part in the ASB's consultation process, the reforms will risk failing to reflect the constituency it must serve. Successful reform must be a two-way process."

The debate over accounting and auditing standards was started by public clamour. Some brokers, such as Phillips & Drew, have made significant contributions, but it took a brave analyst to criticise, say, the accounts of Robert Maxwell's companies in public.

Institutional investors and the banks have taken a determinedly low profile ever since the start of the long-running saga over City "short-termism". They like to think they have access to more detailed information than is available in public accounts. In crucial instances, they are wrong. If public company accounts are to improve, big users must be big beneficiaries.

Many may choose to remain passive, however, as long as they feel on the defensive. As the Governor made clear, they still are. While David Tweedie, at the Accounting Standards Board, is trying to make profit statements less focused on single numbers and, therefore, less open to distortion, the financial markets remain addicted to simplistic numbers and ratios.

"The need for cultural change," the Governor said, "is not confined to those involved in the production of company accounts."



JON ASHWORTH

INFOTECH TIMES

High-tech on test at Expo

Much of the technology on display at the Seville exhibition will be available for use and visitors could determine its future, Mathew May writes

As might befit an exhibition of the 1990s, there will be plenty of high technology on display at Expo 92, which opens in Seville on Monday. Unlike more modest undertakings, much of the high technology will actually be in use rather than just sitting in isolated splendour on an exhibitor's stand.

The 18 million visitors who are expected to pass through the gates of this six-month exhibition are likely to provide a harsh test-bed for some of the new technologies in use such as fingerprint verification and touch-sensitive computer screens.

If there is any protracted failure, the systems could find themselves back on the drawing board.

The fingerprint system, for example, is being run by Bull, the French computer company, and Telesincro, its Spanish subsidiary. The system requires users to have a fingerprint scanned and encoded on to a computer chip placed in a piece of plastic the size of a credit card. Whenever entering the Expo grounds, users must insert their card and present the relevant finger to a scanning system.

The system will be compulsory for the 400,000 people expected to buy the £160 season ticket, which allows entry to the exhibition for its duration. The organisers hope this will prevent any frequent and canny visitors from purchasing a season ticket and then passing it around to friends.

This biometric device is already being successfully used by many of those preparing for Expo — though one person who had to change their wheel on her car after a flat tyre

discovered that the system does not approve of a grubby finger.

The system's use at Expo will be the first large-scale test of a technology that could end up being the way we use cash machines and credit cards in future. This is especially as credit-card companies and banks become more concerned about fraud and phantom withdrawals from their cash machines.

David Ferrar, the director of Bull UK's open systems organisation, says: "Expo's implementation of this and its level of public acceptance has greatly interested a number of banks and retailers. This system has advantages over alternative methods such as voice recognition and signature verification."

Even more people, about four million, are expected to put 230 touch-sensitive computer screens through a grueling field test. These are no ordinary terminals but "information stations for the electronic city of the future", according to IBM, the company that is providing them.

Arranged in 33 kiosks of seven terminals each, they will use pictures, text, voice and touch to provide information on the fair. Because the terminals interact with one another, IBM says they can be used to book a restaurant, for example, and have the reservation instantly confirmed. If the restaurant is full, an alternative will be suggested.

Voice messages can be left for other people with a television camera at every terminal able to store a digitised picture of the sender. In fact, every one of the



Echoes of the sun in Fujitsu's film three-dimensional images dangle before viewers if they wear shutter system glasses, above right

terminals is an IBM PS/2 personal computer, and to demonstrate the abilities of distributed computing, there is no central mainframe but a network linking the information booths to a further 70 personal computers.

IBM hopes a successful demonstration of this technology at Expo may eventually lead to information stations being installed in shopping malls, on the street in the same way as telephone boxes and eventually even in the home, "providing virtually immediate access to an

entire universe of information about almost everything".

Surprisingly, there will be no computers at the stand of Fujitsu, the Japanese computer company. Like four other companies, including Siemens and Rank Xerox, it has achieved "country status" with 58 countries that have built their own pavilions.

The company says that instead it wishes to emphasize a more cultural and humanistic approach, but admits it is at Expo partly to get its name better known in Europe

before the launch of a new range of personal computers.

On display will be an exhibition of Japanese calligraphy, but the main activity will be the showing of a three-dimensional film, *Echoes of the Sun*.

3D is a much misused term in computing, often referring to the display of computer graphics on a two-dimensional screen that can be revolved so that it can be viewed from different angles.

The Fujitsu film, however, is the real thing. It is shown in a special

cinema that resembles a flying saucer tilted at a 45-degree angle.

The top half is taken over by the screen and the bottom half with seating for about 300 people.

The film uses the shutter system, which, like others, shows two images, one for each eye. However, while some systems use polarised glasses or lenses with different colours, this uses an electronic shutter system driven by infrared transmitters that open and shut a liquid crystal display on the wearer's glasses, alternately flashing

them on and off 96 times a second. The result is impressive. The dome-shaped screen is able to make objects appear above, beside and dangling just a few inches from the viewer's face, while there is a distinct sense of vertigo from being shown and dropped down, yawning chasms.

Such films are unlikely ever to appear in the High Street. The cost of the 20-minute film, much of it relying on computer-aided graphics developed in supercomputers, has been estimated at £1.8 million. The way the glasses work would also exhaust the eyes if the system was used for a full-length film, and because each eye is effectively blacked out for half the time, colours are still dim.

The film shows how 3D could work. Although there are 70 cinemas in the world able to show such films, there is little chance that many more will be able to use it. By the time the technology is able to display bright enough colour and it becomes comfortable enough to watch full-length features, 3D films are unlikely to be shown on a cinema screen at all but on a personal helmet like those in fashion for virtual reality games.

Perhaps by that time, such systems will be commonplace but people will not need to go physically on an Expo but will use their helmets to attend a virtual version.

Chris Partridge finds out why lumbering old computer technology is still selling despite lighter, cheaper rivals

Weight and price are not the only ways to choose a portable

Laptop computers are rapidly becoming the dinosaurs of the portable computer business, lumbering monsters with too much body and too little brain to survive.

The new generation of notebooks, light and agile, seems to be threatening them with extinction, but people are still buying them in large numbers. Just 18 months ago, the only portable computers worth the name weighed from 8kg to 10kg and were the size of a briefcase.

They became known as laptops because that is how they were used out of the office. In the last year, a deluge of portables known as notebooks has been sweeping through computer showrooms.

They are the size of an A4 pad of paper when closed — hence the name — weight as little as 2.5kg and fit inside a briefcase. Notebook computers are light enough to be

easily toted around with a travelling executive, but powerful enough to run most of the standard office software.

Small wonder that they are already outselling laptops, within two years of being introduced. Nevertheless, people are still buying laptops in large numbers. Salesmen are mystified.

"Don't ask me why they are still buying laptops, when you can get a faster, more powerful notebook for less money," said the telephone salesman at Compumail, a direct-selling computer distributor based in Aylesbury. "A notebook does everything a laptop will do for less money."

Compumail's own brand of

laptop costs nearly £1,500 compared with the faster notebook computer at half the weight, which costs £1,300.

The salesman says: "Some people like the larger screen and the feeling of ruggedness and reliability that the larger machines have."

Reliability is the main reason for preferring a laptop to a notebook, says David Bridson, spokesman for Elionex, a British computer company that makes its own laptop at its factory in north London. "We have resisted the temptation to introduce a notebook so far," he says. "It is too much of a commodity market, and it has a high rate of returns to the dealer."

Elionex's laptop is a

study 15lb in weight, including the battery, and costs £1,300. One special feature is an unusual removable hard disc, so that the owner can keep the data in a safe place. "One of the major problems with portables is security," Mr. Bridson says. "With the removable hard disc, if the machine is stolen, at least the data is safe. As for the hardware, what is insurance for?"

Anstrad announced at the Hanover Fair recently a new notebook computer with a colour display priced at £3,000. Yet its colour laptop, which is double the weight, is still selling at £4,700.

Despite the advantages of the laptop, industry analysts foresee its extinction. Canquest, the firm of market analysis, found that laptop sales declined by 25 per cent last year whereas notebook sales shot up by 88 per cent, the sort of rise usually associated with consumer goods.

The final blow for the laptop is likely to be the introduction of standard credit-card sized memory modules and modems to a new standard agreed by the leading manufacturers.

The drawbacks of the MC

range were a perceived lack of mass data storage, because all data is stored on credit card-sized modules instead of a hard disc, and lack of a convenient connection to available software because there is no floppy disc drive.

large amounts of data ready for access by the machine; once the price of large memory chips comes down, a process likely to be given a kick by the adoption of MCIA cards.

This process will also remove the two most power-hungry elements in notebook computers: increasing battery life greatly.

In typically British fashion, a British company, Psion, was one of the first in the field. It produced a notebook computer three years ago, well ahead of any rivals, but it was a flop on the mass market.

Could Psion's products be due for a comeback? Peter Norman, Psion's managing director, says the company's MC range is sleekly styled and light and the notebook is still

portable computers will also benefit from the new ISDN systems beginning to cover the country. ISDN is a communications network designed for computers, accessed by connecting an ISDN adaptor box to the ordinary telephone socket.

At present the adaptors are expensive and bulky, but some companies are already developing ISDN adaptors within MCIA cards. The ISDN is so fast that most users will find connecting through it to the computer at base will be just like being connected to the office network. It will also be

cheaper than using a phone line, because only one seat is charged for, even though it will seem to the user as though the computer is always on line.

One of the first MCIA cards was announced last month by south London manufacturer Datafilex. It is a modem, based on a chip provided by Intel, giving speeds of up to 2,400 bits a second for little extra weight or power consumption.

The modem is connected to the telephone line by a cable with a bulb, about the size of a disposable cigarette lighter, which contains the circuitry needed to adapt the system for the British telephone system. This means that the computer containing the modem will be usable anywhere in the world as long as the right cable is supplied. For the first time, a single modem should be usable with any MCIA compatible computer — which will be almost all new models — and anywhere in the world.

This combination of advantages should ensure big sales and corresponding price reductions for the product, according to Philip Benge, the marketing director. The modem went on sale this month at around £260.

On all these extra features

are available in notebooks without significantly adding to their weight or power consumption, it is difficult to see how laptops can survive.

ALAN WELSH

'A notebook does everything a laptop will do for less money'

the only one with a battery life measured in days rather than hours. It has been successfully marketed for corporate use as a customised data entry machine, and the technology behind it lives on inside Psion's successful Series 3 organiser and the data entry terminals used in stock control and other corporate applications.

The drawbacks of the MC range were a perceived lack of mass data storage, because all data is stored on credit card-sized modules instead of a hard disc, and lack of a convenient connection to available software because there is no floppy disc drive.

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ALAN WELSH

Multiple confusion

CONFUSION is the about what exactly the term multimedia means and whether it is a technology, a computer application or a market, according to a report by Ovum, a firm of researchers.

It defines multimedia systems as those computers and software that support the interactive use of at least one of audio, still image or moving video pictures.

By 1997, Ovum predicts that a third of business computers will be multimedia personal computers, with 17 per cent of desktop software multimedia. It says growth is being held back by high costs, a lack of integration and a lack of agreed standards.

IBM cuts

IBM has announced more job cuts this week as it declared net profits for the first three months of this year, up by 7 per cent on the same period last year, to \$595 million (about £336 million). The company would not say how many jobs would be eliminated. IBM has previously said it plans to cut staff by up to 20,000 this year.

The company, once famous for providing job security, cut 29,000 positions in 1991.

Super sound

FOR those with a spare £650 or so, Sony can offer a new amplifier designed to take advantage of the move towards better television sound.

More than 15 per cent of television viewers have connected their sets to hi-fi systems, the company says, while 40 per cent of large screen television sets are now equipped to receive Ntsc digital stereo.

The amplifier, which goes on sale in August, provides five types of surround sound effect, allowing users to choose between emulating the acoustics of a theatre, hall, jazz club, stadium or Dolby sound.

CD add-on

CD-ROM, software based on the computer version of compact discs, is becoming more inventive. In the United States, one disc is now available that enables you to set up your own bulletin board — a service that allows others to phone in and get information and public-domain software, and often to exchange mes-

ages. Bulletin-board services are usually smaller than the big commercial computer information services, and are run on personal computers instead of mainframes.

You can arrange to give callers access to files on your computer's hard disc, as well as the files on the CD. That way you can set up electronic "mailboxes" for bulletin-board subscribers or establish "forums" where discussions can take place by message.

The disc, produced by Quanta Pcs of Minneapolis, costs £100.

Comeback?

PERSONAL organisers, the icon of the 1980s, may have gone out of fashion but there is still a belief that computerised versions may take over. For example, Trendz, of Berkshire, is selling a £233 package

of software and hardware.

British eyecare

My, ho
John Couldwell
John Craven
Many cars are
spared
old paintings

C

British eyecare

My, how you've changed

Clive Couldwell
sees how modern
beauty can be
imposed on an
old painting

Computers are taking the mystique out of the Old Masters by allowing operators to manipulate a painting at will. The National Portrait Gallery's education department has been using portraits as the raw material to produce computer-generated images.

Julie Myers, the artist-in-residence, is using the technology to analyse how society's concept of beauty has changed, or not changed, over the centuries. In the process, she is producing new works. She is using old ideas of beauty, comparing them with our modern notion, and also creating contemporary art.

Her project, Screen Deep, examines two pairs of portraits, one showing modern ideas, and another depicting an older idea of beauty. The works are Andy Warhol's *Elizabeth Taylor* (1967) and *Mick Jagger* (1975), and older icons of beauty are embodied in *John Wilmsot, 2nd Earl of Rochester*, after Jacob Huyghens (c.1665-70) and *Nell Gwynn*, studio of Sir Peter Lely (c.1675).

Ms Myers has the original portraits on the walls around her. She has captured the image of each portrait with a conventional video camera and transferred it to a Commodore Amiga desktop computer. She can then manipulate the image on screen, enlarging a pouting lip, adjusting a wig or beauty mark, or chiselling a nose.

"When they are inside the system, the pictures lose their reverence," she says. "You would not dream of touching an Old Master, but somehow that same painting changes once it has been scanned, or a frame grabbed and inserted in the system."

The faces in the more realistic older paintings, when they were stripped down to their essentials by the computer, suggested that male and female beauty was held to be similar, whereas in the modern, stylised pictures the two are quite different. Warhol's males and females are portrayed in different ways and stylised from the start. However, heavily lidded eyes and pouting lips were universal, common to old and new.

This manipulative approach to studying the human face had a forerunner in the work of Francis Galton, an English explorer and scientist. In 1878 he came up with the photographic technique "composite photography", which superimposed images of two or more faces using a number of exposures.

A similar effect can be



Making a new man: the *John Wilmsot* portrait has been computer-adjusted to today's standards by Julie Myers

achieved with a stereoscope and two photographs — the viewer sees a different face with each eye, but perceives only one composite face.

This technique, applied to computer technology, is used in research into cosmetic surgery and forensic science: the computer can build up three-dimensional representations of a skull or reflect the ageing process. Ms Myers's project arose from an interest in cosmetic surgery and beauty and an urge to find out why people appear as they do. "As an artist I used the existing paintings as the initial inspiration and changed them to create new images," she says.

Computer-generated pic-

tures are common in commerce, but they are not recognised as originals by the conventional art world.

Ms Myers says: "Computer art will create its own niche." Ms

Myers says: "You can only pull the picture apart but also animate those elements into sequences. Either way, you come out with something completely different."

The computer can change images without a prejudiced sense of taste, so it can be more honest and unemotional. Ms Myers talks of "a new form of art, where the input is yours but what comes out has not

been organised". She says: "It is artist and machine working together. It is partly me and partly it, but the mechanical process takes over." The aim is not "to achieve a certain style or try to make people look beautiful".

Ms Myers is running workshops during Easter for people with basic computer skills who want to use the equipment.

"I shall grab and scan what they need and give them a disc they can then work on," Ms Myers says. "One thing I hope to achieve is a whole wall of manipulated colour images juxtaposed against the more traditional paintings."

The participants will also be able to explore the computer's creative role and the research potential of a portrait software program. The gallery is keen to co-produce a software program that will explain how portraits are constructed.

Ms Myers says: "Ultimately, I should like to create a wall of moving pictures, sensitive to touch — a sort of intelligent picture, where the picture interprets your movements into some sort of visual image."

● The workshops, for up to eight people per session, are on April 18, 21 and 22 for those aged 13 to 17, and April 23, 24 and 25 for over-18s. Details: National Portrait Gallery's education department, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055). Sessions are free but must be booked.

British eyes on Pisa

A telephone link will automatically report any sudden movement during work to save the leaning tower

If the leaning tower of Pisa begins tilting alarmingly this summer when remedial works are planned, the first danger signals will be relayed automatically in a telephone call to Watford, Hertfordshire.

There, at the environment department's Building Research Establishment, engineers are keeping a round-the-clock watch on the tower.

The telephone links to sensors on the structure will help in the work of the Italian prime minister's commission, which is trying to understand how the monument is moving southward.

By the summer, when the work is expected to begin, the telephone links will have been automated and the computer monitoring set to dial the team in minutes if the restoration worsens the tilting.

Gerwyn Price, who leads the establishment's monitor-

ing team, says: "If we get movements of about 12 arc seconds (three millimetres), this may be cause for concern.

This would be about three times bigger than normal daily movements and that perhaps would be the time for the alarm to be made."

The team began its work in December 1990 when the special sensors called electrolevels, were installed with a computer. Electrolevels, developed for aircraft insight navigation and adapted by the establishment's engineers, consist of a glass phial containing three equally spaced electrodes and a special fluid.

The monitoring for nearly two years has helped to show that the tower's movements are far from predictable. The monument is not only leaning but also rocking back and forth and jiggling from side to side. Mr Price says: "Overall, the yearly movement is south of about five seconds of arc or one and a quarter millimetres. Sometimes it accelerates."

The remedial work will attempt to arrest this movement while keeping the tower leaning. Obviously, the Italian government and the people of Pisa are keen not to lose the tilt.

Under the plan, reinforcing steel hoops will be placed around the tower. Then weights will be added to the ground on the north side to squash the foundations and reverse the tilt. The electrolevels will try to pick up the slowing of the southward tilt and a definite northward movement, which may indicate that the remedial works are succeeding.

The use of electrolevels and dial-up computers has not been confined to the famous tower. The British team has deployed them around tunnels on the Docklands Light Railway in London to detect

further electrolevels, doing the same job in the plinth." Every week the team uses a password to collect data from the computer and its sensors. The data is relayed to John Burland, a professor in the civil engineering department at Imperial College of Science and Technology in London and a member of the commission's 14-man group helping to develop solutions.

The monitoring for nearly two years has helped to show that the tower's movements are far from predictable. The monument is not only leaning but also rocking back and forth and jiggling from side to side. Mr Price says: "Overall, the yearly movement is south of about five seconds of arc or one and a quarter millimetres. Sometimes it accelerates."

The remedial work will attempt to arrest this movement while keeping the tower leaning. Obviously, the Italian government and the people of Pisa are keen not to lose the tilt.

Under the plan, reinforcing steel hoops will be placed around the tower. Then weights will be added to the ground on the north side to squash the foundations and reverse the tilt. The electrolevels will try to pick up the slowing of the southward tilt and a definite northward movement, which may indicate that the remedial works are succeeding.

The use of electrolevels and dial-up computers has not been confined to the famous tower. The British team has deployed them around tunnels on the Docklands Light Railway in London to detect

shifts in the ground, and they are in place on a bridge on the M8 in Glasgow and at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's residence in the City of London, as part of a long-term project to monitor the building's movement in response to tunnel below.

Mr Price says the electrolevels system is to be used on British Rail's behalf to help during the construction of its second Severn crossing, beginning this summer.

The devices are sensitive enough to detect movements of as little as a thousandth of a millimetre in the existing 100-

year-old train tunnel caused by the ebb and flow of the Bristol Channel eight-metre tides. The electrolevels will be used to relay warnings to construction workers if the tunnel is being squashed alarmingly by the bridge crossing being built above.

When the second crossing is open the sensors are expected to remain. Mr Price says: "The system can look for movements outside set limits and will radio to the control centre. BR then has the option of stopping the trains."

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Information for everybody, on TV

The spare lines on your screen are being used to transmit vital information

Data broadcasting conjures up images of space satellites beaming information halfway across the world. However, one of the biggest data broadcasting services in Britain makes use of the conventional rooftop television aerial.

The data is mixed with the signal that carries television programmes from the transmitter to the home.

A television signal is composed of 625 lines, but only 575 of them are used for the picture. The unused lines are known as the vertical blanking interval, and some of the spare lines are used for the teletext service, which provides text and graphic information on items such as the news, weather and sport.

Teletext is essentially a public service, and anybody can use it by buying a television or video-recorder equipped with a decoder.

Some of the teletext lines, however, are also used for commercial data broadcasting services, which are designed for business users.

Liz Kukielka, the sales and marketing manager of Data Broadcasting International (DBI), in Egham, Surrey, says: "Teletext data broadcasting is inexpensive if you have to send a lot of information to a lot of people."

An organisation sends its information to a data broadcasting company, where it is processed before being transmitted with the normal television signal. During processing, the data is scrambled or encrypted so that it can be seen only by authorised users with special decoders.

The decoded information may be displayed on a computer screen or television set.

Some services are for "closed user groups". For example, a head office may wish to send information to its regional offices.

Marks & Spencer uses the system to send price information to all its stores. Other services may be used for multiple display purposes, such as information kiosks in shops. Data can also be sent to individual decoders.

Private teletext was made possible by the 1985 Cable and Satellite Act, which allowed television companies to run subscription services. It was also helped by the deregulation of the stock market.

Ms Myers says: "Ultimately, I should like to create a wall of moving pictures, sensitive to touch — a sort of intelligent picture, where the picture interprets your movements into some sort of visual image."

● The workshops, for up to eight people per session, are on April 18, 21 and 22 for those aged 13 to 17, and April 23, 24 and 25 for over-18s. Details: National Portrait Gallery's education department, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055). Sessions are free but must be booked.

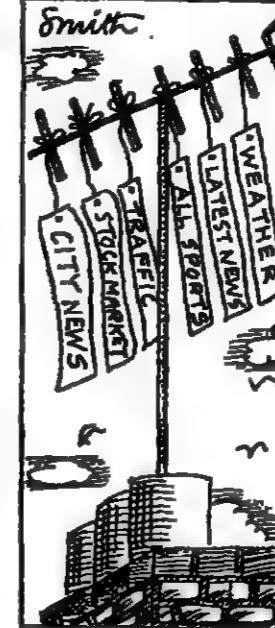
act was first drafted, the private teletext looked quite different from the way it does today. Now you have got competition from satellites that can carry more data to more people. Besides, I do not think there is such a big demand for this sort of broadcasting."

However, Mr Brown at the BBC believes private teletext can be more cost-effective. He says: "The advantage is that you do not need to install expensive reception equipment. An ordinary television aerial will do. And remember that 99 per cent of all homes have access to the television network."

Ms Kukielka, of DBI, says: "Data broadcasting is a niche business like the designer clothes market. You do not see many women walking around in a £1,000 dress."

The cost of DBI's service depends on many factors, such as the number of decoders and the amount of information that needs to be sent.

The company says that a typical service would cost



about £37,000 in the first year, which includes the price of 100 decoders, and about £14,500 a year after that.

Private teletext services received a boost with the 1990 Broadcasting Act, which obliged the Independent Television Commission to take some of the public service teletext lines and sell them to commercial companies.

Suddenly, many companies thought, "How do we get all this data to our clients?" says Lawson Brown, the head of broadcasting services at BBC Enterprises, the BBC's commercial arm.

BBC Enterprises launched its service, known as Datacast, in 1986. Today Datacast's annual turnover is £2 million and its services include Market Eye, which carries stock exchange and financial information, and Cardcast, which provides stores with information

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In December 1991, the commission offered two commercial licences, one for three teletext lines on Channel 3 and another for three lines on Channel 4. The licences will run for ten years and will start in 1993.

In February, however, the commission revealed that DBI was the only company to apply, and then for only one of the licences.

One industry observer says:

"The problem is that when the

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International eligibility needs tightening

All Blacks tread a fine line with Bunce's selection

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WERE the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) to come out today with a firm recommendation regarding eligibility for national sides, it would be entirely apposite: the board concluded its annual meeting in Wellington yesterday on the day when New Zealand announced their team to play a World XV on Saturday with Frank Bunce at centre.

Bunce played for Western Samoa in the World Cup only six months ago and even some New Zealanders are embarrassed that he can now turn out as an All Black. "We want to see an end to this farcical situation in the southern hemisphere where players can hop from one country to another," Denis Evans, the Welsh Rugby Union secretary, said before he left for New Zealand to watch the three-match centenary series.

Wales' representatives on the IRFB have been pressing for a more standardised approach to selection: "We would feel unhappy playing against someone who represented one country in one

World Cup and then found he was playing for another four years later without a substantial change in his domestic arrangements," Evans said.

Keith Rowlands, the IRFB secretary, is sympathetic. "Eligibility is a subject dear to my heart," he said. "I have been concerned for some time about the regulations which are historic. I have proposed a new resolution on eligibility to the board's policy committee; at the same time I have been receiving expressions of concern from the Pacific island unions."

Scotland, as well as Wales, seek tightening on eligibility but that has been only one of several discussion points on the IRFB agenda. Fundamental change to the laws is another, not only to scoring values but to speeding up the game, which is a worthy ambition if it does not lead to the destruction of the essential character of rugby union: as Grant Fox, New Zealand's stand-off half, observed, taken to extreme some proposals would take the game too close to rugby league.

Three former Wallabies who turned professional, Chris Roche, Tony D'Arcy and Tony Melrose, all seek reinstatement but Ronnie Dawson, Ireland's senior IRFB representative, emphasised that "amateurism is still the most important problem facing the governing body of the game".

While the game's administrators have pondered, New Zealand prepare for the first of nine internationals this year, against the World XV in Christchurch. Their team includes three new caps: Bunce, Mark Cooksley, the 6ft 9in lock from Counties, and Richard Turner, the North Harbour No. 8. Eleven members of the 1991 World Cup squad survive, with Greg Cooper, the Otago full back, making a return to international rugby after a six-year interval.

The World party warmed up for the weekend by defeating a Hanan Shield Districts XV 74-3 in Timaru. Jeremy Gusson, the England centre, and Derek White, Scotland's No. 8, each scored two tries and Andy Nicol, the Scotish scrum half, claimed one. NEW ZEALAND'S G COOPER (right), K COOKSLEY, W LITTLE (both), R TURNER, J GUSSON, D WHITE, R COOPER (left), G FOX (Australia), B BUNCE (New Zealand), S McLEOD (Australia), R LEWIS (New Zealand), P HENDERSON (Greece), I JONES (North Australia), M COOKSEY (Australia), M JONES (Australia), R TURNER (New Zealand), E CLARK (Australia), A STREACHER (Australia), G DOUD (North Harbour), G PARFET (Wales), J JOSEPH (Otago).

Withdrawn and their places go to Paul Flood, of Swansea University, and Peter Thresher, of Oxford University. Northampton, have not qualified for the finals of the Worthington national sevens, an event they won two years ago. Leicester won the Midland qualifying tournament, at Frankins Gardens, by beating Rugby 18-12, with Bedford the third qualifier, beating Coventry 48-10.

The following clubs will contest the finals at Bath on April 26: North: Orrell, Wakefield, Morley, Midland: Leicester, Rugby, Bedford. London: London Scottish, Harlequins, Saracens, South-West: Bristol, Exeter, Bath.

Lynagh in Treviso side to face Bath

BY DAVID HANDS AND CHRIS THAU

MICHAEL Lynagh, the stand-off half for Australia, the 1991 World Cup winners, is named in a depleted Treviso side to play Bath at the Recreation Ground this weekend.

Treviso have had a patchy season, languishing in fifth place in the Italian league. A 31-9 win against San Donato, with Lynagh outstanding, helped them clinch a place in the knockout status of the Italian championship.

England, who play their final student international of the season at Wauchope this evening against Ireland, have been forced by injury to make two changes. Laurence Boyle, the Leicester Polytechnic centre, and Alex Snow, the lock from St Andrews, have

been withdrawn and their places go to Paul Flood, of Swansea University, and Peter Thresher, of Oxford University.

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SPORTS LETTERS

Puzzle over drug tests

From Mr David Teasdale Sir, Recently I was in South Africa, meeting senior figures in athletics (and other sports), including those concerned with drug testing. They seemed a little bemused at some international reaction to the Krabbe case, apparently from those who didn't want another scandal in an Olympic year. The South Africans had been delighted to meet the German Federation's request for testing three of their athletes training in South Africa.

Newly back into such international contacts, the South Africans followed the protocols very carefully. The result, we all know — three identical urine samples. When this was confirmed, many around the world recalled previous controversy about East German athletics (for example, the documents published by *Stern* magazine in Germany).

I am co-author of the BBC book *More Than A Game*, which looks at the drug scene in sport, including the *Stern* revelations.

Now, the re-instatement of Krabbe and her colleagues by their German Federation raises yet more uncomfortable questions for this important sport. Now, not just the South Africans are bemused. Let's hope the IAAF asks the questions for all of us and gets answers which enhance — and not set back — the image and growth of track and field. Yours, etc.

DAVID TEASDALE,
The Old Barn,
Woodlands Park,
Cobham, Surrey.

Penalty shoot-out answer

From Mr Douglas McVittie Sir, Counting cautions or corners (report, April 15) to decide the result of a football match is a ridiculous suggestion — referees' decisions often have to be subjective, especially where "bookings" are concerned.

And why corners anyway? Today's long-thrown specialists make the throw-in every bit as likely to lead to a goal (i.e. worthy of reward) as a corner. Which side wins the throw-in is, of course, as subjective as who gets the corner witness the fact that referees and linesmen often disagree on the question.

The solution to deciding tied games: Twofold: first, scrap extra-time and move

From Mr Chris Atkin

Sir, I read Mr Maurice Holmes's letter (Sports letters April 10) about Boat Race times with interest: as a former oarsman and an aerodynamicist, I hope I can answer his question.

Simply put, the drag on a racing boat varies with the square of the boat speed; the power required to maintain progress then varies with the cube of the speed, and — conversely — the boat speed will vary as the cube root of the available power.

To give an example, a 10 per cent increase in the power on the end of the oar (which will depend on the efficiency of the equipment and the technique as well as on the power output of the crew) will produce an increase of just three per cent in the boat speed. In Boat Race terms — an 18-minute race, say — this means the crew will only save about 35 seconds. The trend over the years has, indeed, been towards a gradual lowering of race times, but this sort of improvement is easily masked by the variations in wind and stream. One should also consider the effects of inhaling the sooty air of London and the mephitic fumes of the Thames.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS ATKIN,
30, The Shrubbery,
Mere, Wiltshire,
Wiltshire.

Disproportionate influence of penalties

From Mr Peter Brown

Sir, I concur wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed by Father James McAuliffe (Sports letters, April 10) regarding the disproportionate influence that goal-kicking continues to assume in the game of rugby football.

Whilst penalties should be awarded for deliberate offences aimed at stifling the momentum of the attacking team and, of course, in the event of foul play, I believe the influence of goal-kicking would be reduced by the awarding of free-kicks in circumstances where the offence is of a similarly technical nature to those awarded at the scrum.

Yours faithfully,
J. DOUGLAS MCVITIE,
The Times,
116, King's Road,
Grosvenor,
London, NW1.

A better bet

From the Director General of the Betting Office Licensees' Association

Sir, Mr Rex Haynes (Sports letters, April 10) of Sam Snead's golfing swing, Snead revealed its secret to the *Saturday Evening Post* about 35 years ago.

As a young lad, he was so poor he could not afford shoes. If you swing badly in your bare feet, he said, you fall over and land on your backside. The only way to remain upright is to do it correctly. Golfing shoes, he maintained, encouraged poor technique by providing a firm grip and so removing the natural penalty of a bad swing.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CUNNANE,
Our Lady of the Taper,
Cardigan, Dyfed.

From Mr John Green

Sir, Nick Faldo and David Leadbetter might well profit from a close study of one of the greatest golf swings ever to grace the world's fairways.

I speak, of course, of the legendary Samuel Jackson Snead. I have had the pleasure of watching most of the leading golfers of the last 60 years, and have played with many of them.

Snead was over here for the

strikes for the ball, which, largely, is a matter of timing. So, too, in a number of cases, is barging at the lineout and going over the ball.

In such circumstances, I believe a free-kick would have been the appropriate decision which, whilst not allowing Australia to kick for goal, should award a penalty, but if it is to be interpreted as accidental, a free-kick should be awarded.

An incident in the 1991 World Cup Final can be used to illustrate my point. With Australia on the England ten-metre line and in no way threatening to score a try, England's Mike Teague was adjudged to have "gone over the ball" as he stumbled into a disintegrating ruck, enabling Michael Lynagh to kick the resultant penalty to put Australia six points clear

and, ultimately, out of England's reach.

In such circumstances, I believe a free-kick would have been the appropriate decision which, whilst not allowing Australia to kick for goal, should have allowed them to attack through a kick for touch or a tap penalty.

If free-kicks were to be awarded in such circumstances, spectators would see less time wasted through goal-kicking and, more importantly, a game geared towards attacking play. After all, wouldn't William Webb Ellis have wanted it that way?

Yours faithfully,
PETER BROWN,
4/61, Marlborough Place,
London, NW8.

A barefoot Snead

From Canon James Cunningham

Sir, Perhaps a golfing ignoramus may be permitted to postscript to Mr. John Green's eulogy (Sports letters, April 10) of Sam Snead's golfing swing. Snead revealed its secret to the *Saturday Evening Post* about 35 years ago.

As a young lad, he was so poor he could not afford shoes. If you swing badly in your bare feet, he said, you fall over and land on your backside. The only way to remain upright is to do it correctly. Golfing shoes, he maintained, encouraged poor technique by providing a firm grip and so removing the natural penalty of a bad swing.

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Snead was over here for the

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Dr Devious poised to defy penalty in Craven Stakes

THOSE still searching for the winner of the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 2 can watch the Craven Stakes there today in the knowledge that in the last seven years four winners of this particular trial, Shaded, Dancing Brave, Doyoun and Tirol, have gone on to win the classic itself.

However, for my selection, Dr Devious, today's race represents step along a path that leads to Louisville and a attempt at the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs.

Because he won the group one Dewhurst Stakes here last October, Dr Devious must carry a 1lb penalty today. That weight concession will not prove easy but I feel that Dr Devious has a record which indicates he will be equal to the task. He also worked well at Newbury racecourse last Saturday when he was ridden by Cash Asmussen for the first time.

When he won the Dewhurst, Dr Devious beat Great Palm by two-and-a-half lengths. A conversation yesterday with Paul Cole, Great Palm's trainer, left me in no doubt as to the merit of that performance as Great Palm remains the appie of his eye.

The Dewhurst form was further strengthened yesterday when the fourth, Pursuit Of Love, won the European Free Handicap at Newmarket.

Apart from also winning at Newbury, on Newmarket's July course and at Goodwood, Dr Devious was also beaten a head by Young Seor in the Tattersalls Thoroughbred Stakes over today's course and distance.

Anas Alwasheek, who was only a neck behind in third that day, comes into the reck-

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

ong now that he will be meeting Dr Devious on 5lb better terms. Yet Newmarket opinion still appears to be divided between Forest Tiger and Muhtaram over who will prove the better of those trained locally.

While Forest Tiger certainly looked good when making that winning debut against maidens at Doncaster last month it must be said that today's race represents an enormous step up in class.

Muhtaram, who was unbeaten last season, is the subject of good reports from the Heath. He is also the preferred choice of Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum's retained jockey Willie Carson, who could also have ridden Shaded's half-brother Badie.

Bold Pursuit, from the Tiro camp, Irish Memory, a recent winner at Leopardswood and the Royal Lodge Stakes fourth Torrey Canyon



Asmussen: first public ride on Dr Devious

complete the line-up.

While Bold Pursuit impressed when winning over today's course and distance last autumn, Irish Memory appears to have a bit to find on form since he was beaten by two of Bold Pursuit's stable companions Fair Crack and Swing Low last season.

By the time Roger Charlton saddles Torrey Canyon a further clue to his chance should have been provided by the sight of Mack The Knife and Twisted And Turned contesting the Fledgling Stakes. They finished directly in front of Torry Canyon when they were second and third respectively behind Made Of Gold in the Royal Lodge.

Mack The Knife again finished second in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster, where Ninja Dancer, another of today's runners, was five lengths adrift in fifth place. I have heard increasingly good news concerning Mack. Where he is trained by Dick Hern. He is napped to substantiate those reports now that he has done particularly well physically during the winter.

Thayer, Jim Bolger's runner, is another who is Kentucky Derby-bound following that victory on the all-weather track at Lingfield twelve days ago.

Finally, having won the first race of the meeting on Tuesday with Iwaywa, Peter Walwyn and Willie Carson are hopeful that Hamsas will follow suit by landing the Granby Maiden Stakes at the start of today's programme. This unraced colt by Danzig has been showing real promise at home.

Longer horizons lie ahead.

Blinkered first time

RPTD: 4.20 Split Second.

Ayr lines up consolation prize

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A BREAKTHROUGH in race planning has allowed this year's Ladbrokes Gold Cup at Ayr to be supported by a consolation race for horses baulked out. It will be known as the Ladbrokes Silver Cup.

The idea of having two divisions for one of the season's most popular sprint handicaps was put forward in 1991 but rejected by the Jockey Club. However, following widespread criticism of the Portman Square decision

Ladbrokes and Ayr racecourse resubmitted plans and this time they have been accepted.

The £15,000 Ladbrokes Silver Cup will be open to those horses unable to run in the Ayr Gold Cup. Both races will be on September 19. Entries for the consolation race will be restricted to those horses which were declared to run at the overnight declaration stage but eliminated from the Ladbrokes Ayr Gold Cup.

"It has been frustrating for

many trainers who not only have had to prepare their horses for the Gold Cup but in some cases having to travel horses up as well and have been unable to run because they have been eliminated."

Mark Kershaw, general manager at Ayr, said: "This has been made possible through the co-operation of John Sime and the race planning department at the Jockey Club.

"It has been frustrating for many trainers who not only have had to prepare their horses for the Gold Cup but in some cases having to travel horses up as well and have been unable to run because they have been eliminated."

He added: "I am sure that

the idea will be welcomed by

trainers who have been eliminated."

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3.45 KIRBY HILL HANDICAP

(20.97; 1m) (14)

1 210 TUSKY 2.40 Mamma's Too. 3.15 Aroron. 3.45 Qualitas Rhythm. 4.20 Firefighter. 4.50 Intent. 2.10 Thunderer. 2.40 Saint Benet. 3.15 Sea Devil. 3.45 Barrford Lad. 4.20 Firefighter. 4.50 Alaird. GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES) SIS DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2 1-2 TAUNTING 14 M Blended 4.50 C Rutter 8 2-3 WHIRLY BLUE 14 M Blended 4.50 R. Connon 11 3-4 WHIRLY BLUE 14 M Blended 4.50 R. Connon 11 4-5 AFFORDABLE 2.50 F W Carter 4.4-10 Paul Eddery 4 5-6 MAFODAF 7 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 6-7 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 7-8 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 8-9 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 9-10 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 10-11 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 11-12 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 12-13 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 13-14 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 14-15 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 15-16 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 16-17 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 17-18 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 18-19 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 19-20 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. Kersley 4.4-11 20-21 CANTER 20 (D) F Lai 4.6-12 N. 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Tough women with a grip on gold

How fast the world moves. This year, for the first time, women fight at the Olympic Games. Hand-to-hand combat — and the odd thing is, of course, that there is absolutely nothing surprising or shocking about this. One can only wonder what kept them so long.

Britain happens to be very good at it, too. At least six women should be going to Barcelona with medal chances. "People say gold medal here, gold medal there, I say, naah! You don't understand," Roy Inman, who coaches the women's judo squad, said. "It's hard, it's bloody hard, and two medals of any colour will be a bloody good result."

Inman has gathered around him tough ladies of every possible size, all dedicated to beating up other women. He seems an unlikely feminist: a solid block of uncompromising muscle firing cockney glottal stops about the place like a scouser gun: "and after lunch we'll have a bit of a punch-up."

And so they all — the elite half-dozen and 40-odd others — set about beating each other up: a building in High Wycombe of all places filled with the thump and crash of falling bodies, from Sharon Lee, heavyweight, down to the redoubtable Karen Briggs, at bantamweight. Whack. Thump. Whiplash.

Women's judo is an official Olympic medal sport at last, and the Brits have a long tradition here. What odd synthesis I wonder, brings this Japanese sport, with all its ethical and philosophical implications, to new spiritual homes in places like High Wycombe, now echoing with a babel of accents from one end of the country to the next: London, Birmingham, Yorkshire? The Japanese Way of Gentleness is now a tough sport of the suburbs and the inner cities, played by tough ladies from the start.

"It's a cruel sport. If someone starts to crack, you just start piling the pressure on until they are finished"

"A day at St Trinian's," said one (male) judo person, on hearing I was to spend a day with the British women's judo squad. I was reminded of my favourite St Trinian's cartoon: the girl with the dagger in her back and the teacher saying: "Some little girl didn't hear me say unarmed combat, did she?"

These women are tougher than that, of course. If you seek tough ladies, look no further than Karen Briggs, four times world champion, standing no taller than a first-former, but a face betraying the fact that she has known more triumph and more pain in 25 years than most experience in three score and ten.

In 1987, fighting for the world championship, she broke her leg in five places. Thinking it was a dislocation,

SIMON BARNES



THE BRITISH CONTENDERS

she tried to stand on it. "I just sort of felt my leg swing forward on the mat ... the doctor said it was the worst break he'd ever seen," she said. "People in the crowd fainted." She was told she would not walk again.

Her recovery is the stuff of legend. "I had about six operations. It was quite serious," she said, with magnificently vague answers. "I still have the scars to show for it." She attacked the injury with the physical courage you expect of such an athlete. Six hours of physiotherapy a day. Upper-body work to stay in shape. Mind like steel. And she mended.

The first time I got back on the mat in competition, it was frightening. And then I had to perform the same technique I was doing when I was injured. And in fact, that didn't bother me. It just came naturally." And so in 1989, she was back in the world championship, and she won it, too.

She is now close to the end of her career, and is engaged to her coach's son. Judo is a small world; sometimes a rather claustrophobic one. This is an individual sport, but you cannot train alone, as a runner can. You need judo fighters, preferably fighters of your own standard or better. Not many of these. This is, of necessity, something of a team sport, but without the solace of shared goals and a shared identity. All the work must be done together, but all the goals are individual.

Athletes with individual goals are not, by their nature, herd animals. Solitary predators, more like.

I asked all the top players about this sense of claustrophobia, and there was a striking difference in the answers I got. Before the punch-up, all were inclined to stress their stifling, enclosed life. "We spend too long together," said Sharon Lee, whose Birmingham tones are perfect for lugubrious sentiments. "Naturally we get fed up with each other. There's always people invading your space. Stuck in one place with a judo mat, and judo players, and then go to bed."

"It's a really insular environment," Inman said. "At times it's like a school playground. You just want to crack in competition, you just start piling the pressure on until they are finished. What I like about this sport, is that you can be really sailing ahead with someone and then lose. You can be miles ahead and then get thrown and lose."

This creates immense pressure in every moment of combat. The format of competition increases this pressure. Any slip is disaster, and a judo competition takes place on a single day. You might win them all to take gold. The mental and physical pressures increase

geometrically with every fight. This is a sport in which, year by year, consistency is little help. You must hit perfection on a single day. For the older fighters, this means a single day from an entire lifetime their careers will not stretch another four years. This is their first and only Olympic opportunity.

For all their understandable pre-punch-up

KAREN BRIGGS: Aged 29, from Hull. Bantamweight (under-48kg). Four times world champion, six times European champion. 1989 world silver medal winner.

SHARON LEE: Aged 25, from Grimsby. Bantamweight (under-48kg). Twice world champion, 1988 Olympic bronze medal winner.

NICOLA FAIRBROTHER: Aged 21, from Sandhurst. Lightweight (under-55kg). 1991 world bronze medal winner and European bronze medal winner.

DIANE BELL: Aged 28, from Crowthorne. Light-middleweight (under-61kg). Twice world champion, three times European champion. 1988 Olympic gold medal winner (demonstration event). 1991 world silver medal winner.

KATE HOWEY: Aged 18, from Andover. Middleweight (under-66kg). European and world junior champion. European silver medal winner (senior), 1991 world bronze medal winner (senior).

JANE MORRIS: Aged 22, from Croydon. Light-heavyweight (under-65kg). Best performance fifth place in 1991 world championships.

JOSIE HORTON: Aged 23, from Croydon. Light-heavyweight (under-65kg). Best performance silver medal in 1992 British Open.

SHARON LEE: Aged 29, from Birmingham. Heavyweight (over-72kg). 1988 world silver medal winner (open category).

grumbling, the physical endurance of the punch-up itself was terrific and infectious. A lot of grinning and joshing and bantering between, and even sometimes during, each fight. "All that joking and rivalry, it's the same with the men," Inman said. "Exactly the same. It's got more similar the more professional the women's squad has become."

Afterwards, in the afternoon, hair wet from the shower and faces relaxed and soft after the stresses of combat, there was a huge sense of self-contentment overflowing into a group contentedness. Jostling. Bantering. "Being in a team is a great help," Bell said. "Only another judo player knows what you are going through."

What's the worst part about judo? I asked.

"Dying to make the weight."

"No weight training."

"No running."

And what's the best bit?

"Winning."

"Winning."

"Winning."

That's attitudes for you.

Bernard Levin, page 16

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp (5pm)	Last snow fall
FRANCE	90	150 mixed	poor	snow	2	15/4
Alpe d'Huez	(Glacier and upper runs still good. Lower slopes)					
Avesnes	100	150 mixed	closed	overcast	1	15/4
(Lower runs bare. Upper still good)						
Baniges	100	150 mixed	closed	overcast	0	15/4
(Conditions still fairly good throughout Pyrenees)						
Faillies	70	285 mixed	poor	snow	0	15/4
(Parcapped snow on upper plates. Wet on lower)						
Menzel	10	170 good	open	overcast	0	15/4
(Good sking above 1,600m. Lower wet and sketchy)						
Val d'Isere	90	180 good	open	snow	1	15/4
(Good snow cover at all levels)						
AUSTRIA	0	140 mixed	cloudy	6	31/3	
Iglu	(Good along on highest sections of Patscherkofel)					
Kitzbuehel	0	175 mixed	closed	cloudy	0	6/4
(Higher levels with melting lower runs)						
Mayrhofen	0	170 mixed	closed	cloudy	4	5/4
(Upper sections still good. No sking below middle)						
Schladming	5	200 mixed	closed	fine	0	7/4
(Sking above middle sections. Best on Pfeiss)						
Sell	0	100 mixed	closed	cloudy	5	6/4
(Good sking on uppermost pastures. Most lifts in operation)						
Zell am See	15	180 good	open	cloudy	3	13/4
(Good sking with all lifts and runs open)						
SWITZERLAND	120	130 good	bunny	2	13/4	
Arosa	(Good spring snow conditions)					
Gstaad	10	90 mixed	closed	rain	7	15/4
(Highest runs still good. Others suffering from rain)						
Klosters	50	270 good	open	cloudy	2	13/4
(Good spring snow conditions)						
Verbier	5	400 mixed	poor	snow	0	15/4
(Glacier in excellent condition. Village runs patchy)						
Vitiers	0	90 mixed	closed	snow	0	15/4
(Good spring sking on upper 21 of 23 lifts operating)						

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

GOLF: MOROCCAN OPEN PREVIEW

Injury ends five-year reign

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN RABAT

THE European Tour, with another fine disregard of geographical nicety, has pitched its tent in Morocco this week. After Bangkok and Dubai it has taken possession of the Dar-es-Salam course, a Trent Jones design, which at 7,222 yards is the longest on the tour, and scenically beautiful with it.

The younger school, however, has a promising flag-bearer in Jim Payne, still holder of the European amateur championship, who was rescued at the last minute from trying his luck on the subsidiary Challenge tour.

He secured third place in the Rome Masters two weeks ago, at the result that, at the last gasp, he had soared from 34th place to fourth among the 1991 qualifiers from the tour school when the top 20 places were reassessed this week.

The tournament was held once before, in 1987, when

Howard Clark won. He should have been back to defend a title he has held, by force of circumstance, for five years, but his back is again playing up, leaving Mark James as principal representative of the old school.

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has a promising flag-bearer in Jim Payne, still holder of the European amateur championship, who was rescued at the last minute from trying his luck on the subsidiary Challenge tour.

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Until Rome, he admits; he was struggling. "I was play-

ing better than the results suggest," he claims, "but missing 36-hole cut after cut by a single shot". His best placing had been 55th; but in Rome, where the wet and windy weather recalled conditions at home in Lincolnshire, the pattern changed.

"I scored 70 in the first

round," he pointed out, "so that whereas before I was concerned about making the cut, now I could think about how high I might finish. Now I can be sure of playing in all but a couple of the 12 events before another reassessment is made in July. Otherwise I would have been able to play only in a couple."

He fancies his chances this week, on a course so demanding that it is unlikely to yield many low scores. "I'm a 72 kind of man," he declared enigmatically.

Until Rome, he admits; he was

Birdies on final green form a damp hazard

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THREE firmer ducks paddled happily on the 18th at Copth Heath yesterday, the first day of the Peter McEvoy Trophy, the first major boys' event of the season. The ducks, probably blown miles off their usual course in the filthy conditions, were taking advantage of the large puddles on the green at what is normally a water hole.

The tournament, in its twelfth year, is usually over 72 holes, but so foul was the weather in the morning, that the first round was reduced to nine holes, with 18 in the afternoon. It was a salutary introduction to British conditions for the German boys' team that met their country's flag a place off the flagpole, underneath the club flag and the Union flag.

Steve Levin, page 16

Stevie Levin, page 16

Champions' run ended by brothers

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE world coxless pairs champions, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, were spectacularly beaten by the young Scullie brothers in the British Olympic trials at Nottingham on Tuesday.

The morning was so bad that Steve Webster, the Warwickshire junior and schoolboy champion from Atherton, and a protege of Paul Broadhurst, the Ryder Cup player, said he had never played in worse conditions. "I could barely see the fairway off the first tee," he said. He struggled to a 44, but redressed it with a 73 later.

Tim Foster and the veteran, Martin Cross, also excelled, reducing a three-second deficit behind the world champions at 1,500 metres to a mere half a second at the finish, but this evening belonged to the delighted Scullies.

Jonathan, aged 22, has one gold medal in the men's coxed pairs in Montreal, and is confident he can add his father's 1984 title this summer. The 36-year-old said yesterday he could easily beat the 49-year-old Webster and his seconds mate that night, but added that he had beaten him.

After the race, Tim Foster and the veteran, Martin Cross, also excelled, reducing a three-second deficit behind the world champions at 1,500 metres to a mere half a second at the finish, but this evening belonged to the delighted Scullies.

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He brings him to the Edinburgh event, which incorporates the fourth British grand prix final, four of those opposing him for a

place on the Commonwealth of Independent States Olympic team. Gennady Prigoda carries the weightier form, with silver and bronze medals at Olympic, world and European levels.

The Edinburgh event, sponsored by the late Eric Bibby, marks one of the last chances for British swimmers to meet qualifying standards for Barcelona.

THE TIMES SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 16 1992

Byrne, Houghton and Whelan drop out

Charlton gives Sheridan recall to Irish squad

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN Sheridan could scarcely have timed his return to fitness after a long spell out with a knee injury any better. Just weeks after returning to join Sheffield Wednesday's bid to claim a UEFA Cup spot next season, Sheridan has been recalled to the Republic of Ireland squad for the friendly international against the 1994 World Cup finals hosts, the United States, in Dublin on April 29.

Sheridan has not played for the Irish since being substituted in the 2-1 win in Hungary in September and since then he has had two knee operations. His fitness now proved, the Ireland manager, Jack Charlton, has wasted little time in restoring him to the Republic's midfield.

However, while Sheridan has returned, the FA Cup finalists John Byrne, Ray Houghton and Ronnie Whelan, have had to drop out of the squad. Byrne, who scored twice as the Irish narrowly failed to qualify for the European championship finals with a 3-1 win in Turkey last November, faces Liverpool's Houghton and Whelan at Wembley just ten days after the Dublin match. Charlton has decided to avoid any possible rift with the two clubs. Byrne was also rested from the friendly against Switzerland last month — the

fourth consecutive international missed, through injuries, by Houghton.

Whelan was recalled by Charlton for that game after nearly 18 months in the international wilderness, but he'd had an own goal before an equalised by Tommy Coyne and a late penalty from John Aldridge gave the Irish victory. Both Coyne and Aldridge retain their places in the squad.

Charlton, who was today travelling home after taking his first look at the Republic's World Cup qualifying group rivals, Lithuania, in a 4-0 defeat in Austria last night, has also given the Crystal Palace winger, Eddie McGoldrick, another chance to secure an international future.

The omission of the former Real Madrid midfield player, now in Italy with Torino, was the only surprise in the 16-man squad for next Wednesday's meeting with Albania in Seville.

When the sides last met, in Seville in December 1990, Spain won 9-0 with Emilio Butragueno scoring four goals. The match was a European championship qualifier.

Liam O'Brien, of Newcastle United, a substitute against the Swiss, is another absentee this time while the veteran Blackburn defender, Kevin Moran, and the Middlesbrough forward, Bernie Slaven, are also out.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD (v United States, April 29): P. Barnes (Coler), G. Peixoto (Everton), C. Morris (Coler), S. Staunton (Aston Villa), D. Pringle (Sheffield Wednesday), P. Keane (Bolton Wanderers), D. O'Leary (Arsenal), L. Walsh (Cambridge United), J. Sheridan (Sheffield Wednesday), E. McGoldrick (Crystal Palace), A. McLaughlin (Portsmouth), A. Townsend (Cheltenham), K. Sherry (Preston North End), J. Byrne (Sheffield United), N. Quinn (Manchester City), J. Aldridge (Tottenham Hotspur), T. Coyne (Coler), R. Keane (Nottingham Forest), T. Park (Wimbledon), D. Kelly (Newcastle United).

Eager Gooch carries on

BY PETER BALL

GRAHAM Gooch will continue as England cricket captain this summer. The England committee, meeting at Lord's, yesterday confirmed his appointment for the series with Pakistan.

The appointment was widely anticipated. Gooch has now captained the side in 23 Tests with considerable success, after an auspicious beginning against West Indies in 1988, and there is, anyway, no obvious alternative candidate, at least until the International Cricket

ed to be his final series as captain with an ailingly not matched by his opposite number, Imran Khan, whose presence this summer is still a matter for speculation.

"They've a past record of players saying they are not going to be fit to play, then they turn up," Gooch said. "If Imran didn't come it would be a blow to their team, not least because he is still a very good cricketer."

He accepted the invitation to continue for what is expect-

ed to be his final series as captain with an ailingly not matched by his opposite number, Imran Khan, whose presence this summer is still a matter for speculation.

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With or without Imran, Gooch had no illusions about the quality of the opposition England will be facing.

"They're a number of talented players, and if they click at the same time they are a very good side," Gooch said. "What I think is relevant is that their three bowlers have all had experience and a degree of success in our conditions."

If anything, that is an understatement. Waqar Younis taking 151 wickets in all competitions last year. His fitness has also been in doubt, but Gooch gave even less credence to suggestions that he would not tour. "Yes, I expect him to be fit," he said. "He's a very fine bowler, very fast, with the ability to swing the ball well. With Wasim Akram fast left-arm at the other end, it will be a tremendous challenge to the English batsmen."

With that in mind, selection will not be the least of Gooch's problems this summer. A vice-captain will be appointed by the selection committee, whose first task will be to pick a side for the first of the Texaco Trophy one-day internationals in May.

SAFRICANS arrive, page 34

BREITLING
1884

INSTRUMENTS
FOR PROFESSIONALS

London Stock Exchange
ASPREY, HARRODS, WATKINS & COLLETT, H. M. JEWELLERS
BRANCHES OF MARTIN & WEBB BRASSERS & THE WATCH GALLERY
AND THE CLOTH BRANCHES OF FORT KNOX AND LEISURE DWYS
OUTSIDE LONDON:
ALTRINCHAM, LUSTICE PARKER, BEDFORD, JOHN BULL, BIRMINGHAM,
NATHAN & CO, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, VAN REEFT, BLACKPOOL, COLE,
BRIGHTON, WALTER HILL & SON, BRISTOL, CLIFTON VILLAGE,
JEWELLERS, HORRIDGE, MARSHALL, DODD, DUNN, FOWLER, HARRIS,
CHURCHILL, HATFIELD, LEEDS, MASONS, DUBLIN, FIELD'S, DUDLEY,
WALKER & HALE, DUNDEE, GUTHRIE & SON, EAST KILBRIDE,
STRANRAE, EDINBURGH, MARTIN & WEBB, GATESHEAD, FINEST KNIVES,
GLASGOW, ERNST JONES, MARTIN & WEBB, GLENAGLE, MARTIN &
WEBB, GRAN, FINEST KNIVES, GT, WILKINSON, COLE & CO, GLOUCESTERSHIRE,
MARTIN & WEBB, HALIFAX, LINTON, HORNSEA, HARRODS, FORT KNOX,
LEEDS, BEARDS, MANCHESTER, MARTIN & WEBB, MIDDLESBROUGH,
RONALD KEEFMAN, NOTTINGHAM, WOODWARD, NEUNATEON,
H. JOHNSON & SON, OSSETT, H. H. OFFICER, JOHN GOWING,
PRESTON, GEORGE BANKS & SONS, LIVERPOOL, LEEDS, YORK & HULL,
SOUTHPORT, WEN FROST, ST. MELLER, ERNEST JONES, STOTTS &
WILLIAMS, WINDSOR, T. G. T. & W. WOKERHAMPTON, T. H. HANNA & SON,
YORK, HARVARD

WHEN our captain, David Graveney, announced that there was an audience awaiting me and John Glendenen, my opening partner, I felt disorientated. The cold heat that does service as the away dressing-room in the Parks does not give a clear view of the pitch and I was unaware that the umpires and Oxford University's side were already waiting for us in the freezing gloom.

The audience Graveney had meant, however, turned out to be a posse of photographers and journalists keen to record this unique moment. I wished my wide-eyed partner good luck, as much to off-



Double-gazing: Riba and his opponent, Bruno, indulge in some of the psychological build-up in Northampton yesterday

Bruno counters shot at his eyesight

BY SHRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno is in danger of losing his eyesight if he carries on boxing. That was the warning given to Bruno yesterday by José Riba, the Cuban-born heavyweight whom Bruno faces at Wembley Arena next week.

Riba said that the human body was not made to receive blows and that the eye problems of Sugar Ray Leonard and Sugar Ray Seales, a former Olympic champion, who had lost his eyesight, proved his point.

Frank Bruno is a nice guy but he should not be fighting. He could lose his eyesight, Riba said. "The human

body is not meant to be banged on. If he goes on, he can damage his eyes. Look at this guy Mason, he's smart, he pulled out."

"Bruno can't avoid the truth. Every time he steps into the ring he is in danger of losing his eyesight like Sugar Ray Seales. The doctors are saying that Sugar Ray Leonard's eyes are also bad again."

Riba's warning came at a press conference in Northampton, Bruno deciding to meet his opponent at a halfway house rather than come all the way to London from his training camp in Leicestershire to publicise the forthcoming bout on April 22.

Bruno was taken aback at

his old problem being given a public airing again, especially after the British Boxing Board of Control had given him the clearance to box last September. Bruno's eyes positively bulged as he looked across the table at Riba.

For once he was out of "nice ones" and "you know what I mean, Harry". He was surprised that the man who had come here to be the archetypal opponent, named though he was, was talking like the house fighter.

Bruno struck back. "Talk is cheap. I am not in any more danger than any other boxer. If you look at José he's in more danger. If you get a camera there and look at my face and his face you will see

deflected. "I will go for the eyes in the fight," he said. "I'll go for other targets but I'll go specially for the eyes. He should not be fighting. If I had a torn retina I would not fight."

Duff said: "Frank Bruno's financial position is such that he doesn't need to fight. He is the first to admit if he loses he is finished. If he lost I don't think he'd need my advice to quit." Bruno agreed.

Bruno had no intention of losing. To complaints by Riba's manager, Felix Pintor, about the English referee being judge and jury, Bruno replied: "I don't think I'll need a referee. I'll let my fists do the talking and keep my mouth shut."

Legendary Nijinsky put down at Kentucky stud

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS

NIJINSKY, an outstanding racehorse who became one of the world's most influential stallions, was humanely destroyed yesterday at Claborn Farm, Kentucky, yesterday. He was 25.

Annette Covault, a spokeswoman for Claborn, said yesterday: "He had not been looking as good as normal then this morning he was found lying down in his stall and would not get up. There was no specific illness, time just caught up with him."

Trained in Ireland by Vincent O'Brien, Nijinsky won 11 of his 13 race starts, including the Triple Crown of the 2,000 Guineas, Derby and St Leger in 1970. "He was a truly great racehorse," O'Brien said. "I am fortunate to have been associated with him."

If anything, that is an understatement. Waqar Younis taking 151 wickets in all competitions last year. His fitness has also been in doubt, but Gooch gave even less credence to suggestions that he would not tour. "Yes, I expect him to be fit," he said. "He's a very fine bowler, very fast, with the ability to swing the ball well. With Wasim Akram fast left-arm at the other end, it will be a tremendous challenge to the English batsmen."

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load some of my own nervousness as the import of our mission at last became crystal clear we were the first batsmen to represent Durham in first-class cricket.

It was difficult to concentrate. I took the first historic ball but we were both nervous as our opening shots no doubt showed. Mine was a thick outside edge to third man to open Durham's account; Glendenen's was an involuntary upspin stuck out

down, though Nijinsky had had a harder preparatory race for the Arc than O'Brien would have liked as he knuckled under to owner Charles Engelhard's sporting quest to go for the elusive Triple Crown.

On Arc day Nijinsky was in a lather, his condition hardly helped by a horde of photographers who hounded him around the paddock. All that took its toll. No one was more wary of than Pigott who, in an attempt to conserve the energy of one so highly strung, came from some way off the pace. Arguably, on ground that did not suit him, Nijinsky got there to win his race a hundred yards from home only to lose it on the line.

It was not the true Nijinsky, not the horse we had seen sweep past a top-class field to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot in July. His preparation for the St Leger had been ruined by an attack of ringworm yet Nijinsky still appeared to win the St Leger more or less as he pleased at Doncaster given a deceptive ride by Lester Piggott. Deep

I will always believe that in different circumstances Nijinsky would have won the Arc instead of being beaten in a photo-finish by Sassafras.

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winter. Was it wise to split up my family for the summer? I have taken a flat in Durdham, leaving my wife to guard the hearth and bring up the children until the summer holidays, when they will all join me.

Standing at the crease, I had an irrational but keen yearning to see my wife. At once, I flayed at a widish delivery and the ball came off an inside edge, hit my boot and trickled past my off stump.

I redoubled my efforts to

concentrate. "Move your feet, bend the left knee." Had I made the correct move? It

would have been far easier to

have had only a few weeks — since Yugoslavia decided that its political situation obliged it to withdraw as host nation — to put together the complex costing, funding and logistics.

England's presentation was reportedly good, and if successful they will host the European championships for the first time since 1966.

Meanwhile, Germany, who lost their chance of repeating the silver medal they won in Gothenburg last time by being beaten 4-1 by France on Monday, won the third-place play-off match 4-1 against the French, for whom Jean-Philippe Gatien, the English Open champion, was resting. Gatien had played brilliantly against England in Tuesday's semi-final, winning both his matches, and his absence made the third-place match a disappointing affair, although Damien Eloi, the little left-hander, did well.

Eloi won 24-22 in the final game against Steffen Fetzner, the German No. 2, who is ranked 25 places above him. Jorg Rosskopf, the world No. 9, who has been playing well enough to make a medal challenge in the men's singles starting today, won both his matches.

Ransome and his team watched Glendenen, a forceful right-hander, strike the ball imperiously to the boundary. Soon afterwards, I managed to get a boundary myself. Nature had finally taken over and my concentration improved as the doubts faded. Our partnership and Durham were on their way.

By the time rain ended play at lunchtime on Tuesday, Parker was 50 not out and Durham were 119 for no wicket. Rain and sleet prevented any play yesterday.

Being in at the birth made the nerves jangle

Paul Parker describes his feelings as he opened Durham's first innings as a first-class cricket county

side off stump which evaded cover and trickled to the boundary.

I found my mind wandering. I tried to think only "head still, watch the ball" but ended up asking myself "what am I doing here?" It was a bit late to be pondering the ramifications of a decision taken late last summer. After 17 years with Sussex, the chance to join Durham's great adventure had offered perhaps the most exciting challenge of my cricket career.

Cold reality brought into sharp focus problems which had seemed easily solved from an armchair in mid-

winter. Was it wise to split up my family for the summer? I have taken a flat in Durdham, leaving my wife to guard the hearth and bring up the children until the summer holidays, when they will all join me.

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in to help to ensure a successful first-class launch. I

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BOOKS
Ted Hughes
defends his
approach to
Shakespeare



LIFE & TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 16 1992

APPOINTMENTS
The cream of
management
jobs over
twelve pages



Diabolical libertines

The Fiery Angel, Prokofiev's neglected opera, whirled back to London this week in a spectacular Anglo-Russian production.

Richard Morrison praises a work never heard by its composer

More devils than in *The Devils*. Steaming scenes of mass hysteria than in *The Crucible*. A heroine whose taste in occult kinships makes the average Hammer vampire seem like a very dull old bat. Religious fantasies that never occurred in St Joan in her wildest dreams. Bit parts for the Devil, Faust and the Inquisition. Stripping nuns; Errol Flynn-esque sword-play; jock-strapped demons looking like balding Chippendales. And, as comic relief, the consumption of a live child — though Esther Rantzen will be glad to learn that he is regurgitated, alive and well.

This is Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel*, as staged by David Freeman for the Royal Opera — and greatly entertaining hocus-pocus it is, too. Not since Ken Russell filmed his last nuns' orgy have so many habits been ripped off to reveal so many naked chests writhing on that exceedingly fine line between religious and sexual ecstasy.

The talk is of little except devil-worship, spells, cabals, exorcism — superstitions which appear to have gripped the early 20th-century Russian Symbolists (from where the opera's story emanated) as much as they did 16th-century Germany (where it is set). The protagonist is Renata, obsessed with rediscovering in human form her "fiery angel", who appeared in a series of visions that began when she was eight and culminated in attempted seduction — not much later. Now she is possessed by tormenting demons. The audience must surely wonder when Peter Cushing will stride purposefully on and put the poor girl out of her misery with a well-aimed stake through the heart. Meanwhile, the long-suffering Ruprecht, whose actions suggest he has a brain the size of a pea, becomes obsessed by her. The drama is certainly not in the realist tradition.

Yet the opera grips the attention for a compelling reason: Prokofiev's score is magnificent. Its driving rhythmic patterns exactly match Renata's neurotic, doomed quest for the carnal love that she hopes will revive her spiritual visions. Its surprisingly lush lyrical passages breathe warmth and humanity into characters that would otherwise seem like rag-dolls tossed around in some playroom of the deities. Its startling and insidiously slimy chromaticism unmistakably evokes a slowly spreading stain of poison. And there is black humour, as when Mephistopheles is performing his tired old conjuring tricks, accompanied by a burlesque of oily arpeggios on the clarinet.

But what chiefly stays in the mind is the sound of the great orchestral climaxes, especially as the opera reaches its orgiastic finale, where Renata's evil spirits start to possess the convent in which she has sought refuge. Here the music is like a colossal struggle in the darkness: there are nuns chanting heaven knows what incantation to God or Devil; Renata pleading

for release in great arching phrases; the malign Inquisitor growling out his baleful message of clerical revenge and, from the orchestral pit, brusht brass chords and unexpectedly weird sonorities. Surely this is one of the most astonishing conclusions in opera.

This is certainly the way it seems when conducted with the idiomatic verve and indomitable vigour that Sir Edward Downes brings to it. Even the Covent Garden orchestra's occasional rough edges seemed to add to the music's demonic drive. Why, then, has it taken our century — which is not exactly prissy about tackling sex with a sado-masochistic twist on stage — so long to add *The Fiery*

Angel to the brief list of 20th-century operas in regular production?

The answer is complex. Prokofiev spent nearly seven years in the 1920s setting Valery Bryusov's 1907 autobiographical novel to music. What made him choose this story — based on a real-life *ménage à trois* that had titillated literary Moscow — is unclear. It was a time when nearly every large-scale composing project he completed drew derision or hostility from critics and audiences in America, France and England. Perhaps he recognised, in Renata's crazy pursuit of a God-figure who turns out to be the Devil, some parallel with his own self-destructive impulse to make his living from composition.

He took a house near Oberammergau, the passion-play village in Bavaria, so that he could feel that this tale of religious neurosis might have "taken place in the backyard". Yet he had been given no assurances of a staging; and when this epic psycho-drama was finished one opera company after another made their excuses and declined it.

The composer was not surprised. He admitted that staging *The Fiery Angel* was made difficult by "a few but rather serious violations of the rules of dramaturgy" — of which the most glaring is Renata's immense Act I solo, possibly the longest flashback in operatic history. Then there are the frightening demands on the technique and stamina of the singer playing Renata — demands that are heroically met in the present production

Angel is clear from Gorchakova's first solo, when her story pours out

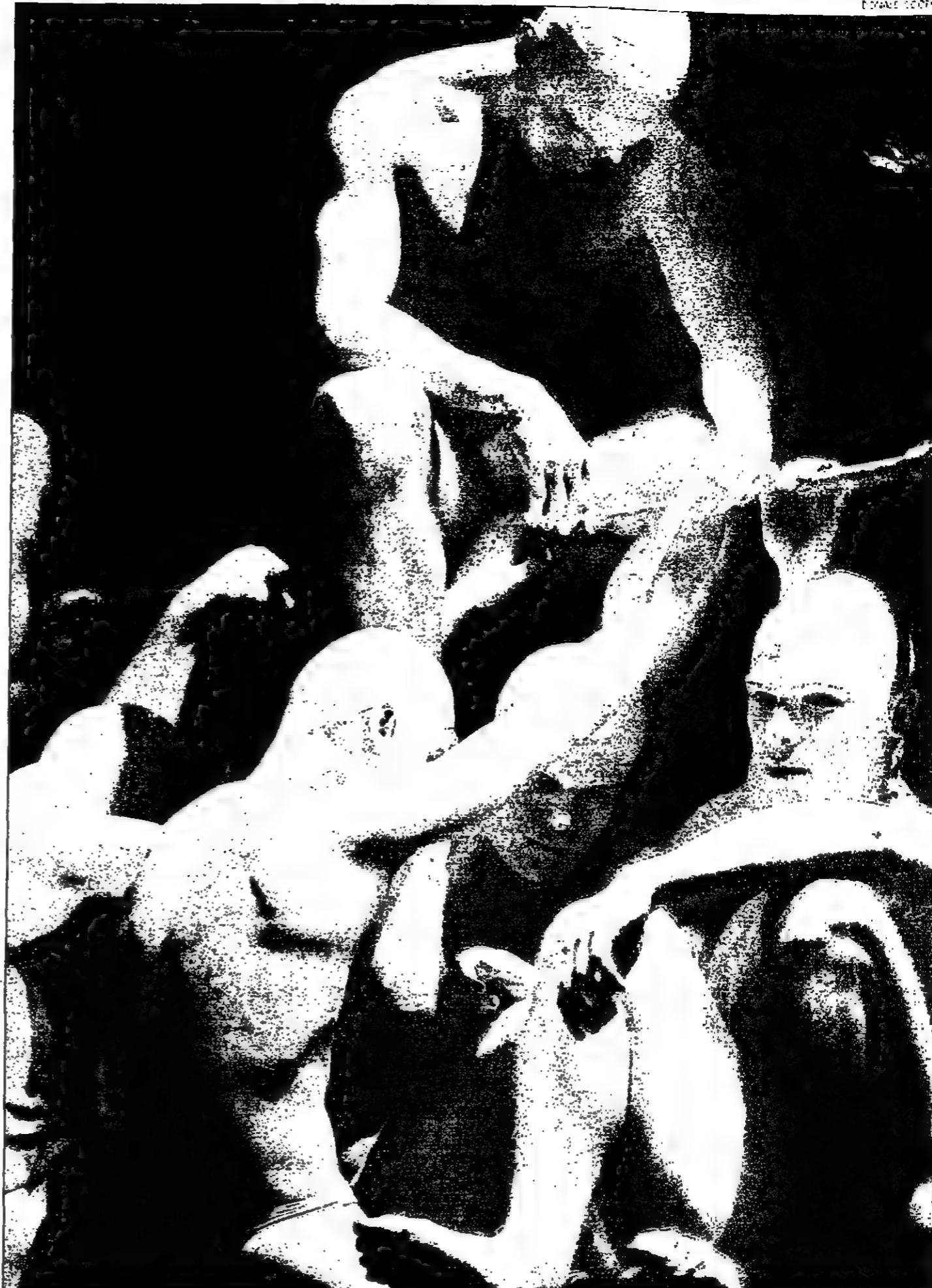
in a torrent of agitation. Sergei Leiferik's brilliantly sung Ruprecht is problematical only because such a commanding vocal presence sits oddly inside such a wimpish character — but that is more a fault of Freeman's direction which, for all its later brazenness, allows a cool detachment to settle over the first hour. David Roger's minimal flats do not help.

Elsewhere, Paata Burchuladze's barrel-voiced Inquisitor, Ian Caley's ringing delivery as the arch-magus Agrippa, and Robert Tear's properly hammy Mephistopheles all impressed. Most of all, however, it is the St Petersburg Maryinsky Acrobatic Troupe, representing the demons — shaven-headed, pasty-faced, and writhing

on parallel bars round the sides of the stage — that sets the tone of Freeman's production, just as the slow-motion wrestlers did in his staging of Philip Glass's *Akhnaten*. The sinister, sinuous presence of these gymnasts by itself makes the Anglo-Russian collaboration worth celebrating.

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TOMORROW
Faith and the country parson



Sinister, sinuous presence: the St Petersburg Maryinsky Acrobatic Troupe in the Royal Opera and Kirov Opera collaboration

WU GUANZHONG a twentieth-century Chinese painter



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Adonis, subtle with words, seeks green type

Once, a thousand years ago now, I worked for one of those London listings magazines wherein people who don't like films or plays very much suggest which cinemas and theatres you might most hate visiting each week. At the back of the magazine are usually a couple of hundred ads from men and — rarely — women who lead fulfilling, well-paid, eventful and happy lives in all but the fact that they've nobody to share the money, the happiness with.

I suppose I'd always assumed that the advertisers in the lonely hearts column told a version of the truth. But one week I happened to be hanging around in the classified ads office when a lonely heart came in person to pick up the replies to his ad. He was a big man in the overstuffed way that Cyril Smith is a big man, but sort of, well, bigger. Such fluffy wisps of hair as remained on his head had been yanked, screaming, across his pate and held down with what looked like blobs of neat Cookeen, the excess of which was smeared on one lens of his glasses. He wore a pair of baggy, pinstriped trousers with a check jacket over a green Hawaiian shirt. The Big David he wasn't.

Who knows? He might have

PRIVATE LIFE
John Diamond on
what lies behind
lonely hearts ads



within that adipose chest beat a sclerotic heart of purest gold. Perhaps he believed that statistical lie that most men have heard and wanted, against their better judgement, to believe true, to wit that if any man, however unappealing, approaches every woman in a crowded pub and says, simply "Will you go to bed with me?", the law of averages states that he will almost certainly not sleep alone that night.

Or then again, perhaps he really did believe it was God's gift and couldn't understand why the only women he ever saw anywhere near the clock at Waterloo were all running towards the tracks ripping copies of *The Times* into shreds.

What reminded me of all of this is that last week a friend confessed that he was actually, he didn't know how to put this, and promise I wouldn't laugh, er, um, thinking of putting a lonely hearts ad in the magazine for which I used to work. He'd got most of it about worked out — "charming, witty journalist..." — but was stuck over one word. Would I, he wanted to know, describe him as "good looking"? I saw his problem. Men don't have any sense of their own looks in the way that women do. Ask a woman whether she thinks she's beautiful or attractive (which is not the same thing) and she will tell you. More: she will tell you in which way she looks good and to what extent all the bits of her work together. Her legs are thus, but her ankles thus, her eyes which are thus are compensated for by her lips which are considered rather, well, thus.

Ask a man the same question and the nearest you'll get to an answer is "I've had no complaints so far" — and even that small boast is considered a trifle immodest.

Asking one man what he thinks of another man's looks is even more fraught. I once hazarded that an absent friend of the six men I was dining with was a good-looking bastard and spent the rest of the evening fending off guffawing enquiries about the extent of my Beta Midler collection.

None of which helped my lonely-hearted friend who knew that anything less than "stunningly handsome" in an ad is assumed to be a euphemism for "OK, in bad light if you stand upwind of him" and that "stunningly handsome" probably doesn't mean much to those who further assume that anyone who needs to advertise in a lonely hearts column can't be up to much anyway. We settled on "attractive", reasoning that attraction is more deeply in the eye of the beholder than beauty, and then we had another couple of drinks and changed it to "said to be attractive" and then crossed that out and changed "witty" to "very witty" instead. He sighed and looked at me with the irritation of one who has just been told a known truth by a friend. "At least," he said, brightening, "I don't have my picture in the paper every week cropped at the top so I look bald as a coot." "No," I said. "There is that, I suppose."

Ticking his interest in Paris: Julie Delpy and Sam Shepard in *Voyager*

TELEVISION REVIEW

Scientists rush to retreat

Einstein told us that "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." On another occasion he also said that cosmic religious experience was the strongest and noblest driving force behind scientific research. Thirty-seven years after his death the gap between faith and the "new science" is closing all the time, a convergence which the BBC 2 series *Soul* has explored over three nights this week.

The old-fashioned Newtonian physics which envisaged the universe as an immense machine has hit the buffers, as Anthony Clare explained in a voice which was often so soothing as to be barely audible. Well-informed folk must now absorb the lessons of new cosmologies, quantum physics, chaos theory and a neurology which has dusted off the idea of the soul, and may find themselves rediscovering the spirituality they thought redundant.

Like the universe, the series kicked off with the Big Bang, the cosmic firework from which space and time emerged 20 billion years ago. Recent study of this primeval explosion has revealed a universe which seems to be following a game plan of some kind.

"I have been more and more impressed, the deeper I dig, at the coherence, unity

and harmony of nature," said Paul Davies, a professor of theoretical physics, in the first programme. "To me this suggests overwhelming evidence of design." Some of the experts consulted even endorsed the anthropomorphic principle which explains away the improbability of intelligent life by writing humanity into the universal blueprint. All paths lead to man, perhaps.

But who mapped out these paths? Simply to say that there is a "universal soul" prodding creation in the right direction seemed a classic example of avoiding a question by rephrasing it. More exciting though no less mysterious was the suggestion that quantum mechanics will one day tell all about the origin and meaning of the universe. Sub-atomic particles after all, pop in and out of existence all the time in the quantum world. Perhaps universes do, too.

The oddest thing for scientists is that they can no longer foretell the future as they could in a deterministic universe. Quantum physics introduces subjectivity and probability to the equation, while chaos theory shows some changes of cause and effect defy predictability completely. A pendulum moving over two magnets will follow patterns too intricate to be forecast. The more scientists discover, the more they are confounded.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

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A few months ago the distinguished London bookshop Grant and Cutler, an academic bookseller specialising in foreign-language texts, carried for sale a range of French videos. Among them were French film classics, including works by such revered figures as Renoir, Clair, Gance, Cocteau and Carné, and video recordings of French stage productions of Molière, Racine and others.

Recently the stand of video vanished. The shop had been ordered to withdraw them from sale after a visit from police acting on information presented by the British Board of Film Classification — formerly (and more frankly) "of Film Censors". When the shop approached the BBFC, it was told that under the sweeping new powers over video conferred on the Board by the Video Recordings Act of 1984 it is illegal to offer for sale in Britain (or place a special order for) any video which does not explicitly bear the Board's seal of classification, or else (as with some operas and ballet recordings) an official exemption. Hence, in practice, all videos not originating in Britain are sold illegally.

What about foreign films already theatrically distributed

in Britain and classified? The answer is that these too are illegal unless passed by the Board in this specific unsubtitled video form. The Board's argument is that a film seen without subtitles and/or on video might create a different effect from when seen subtitled in a cinema. How the effect might be more offensive is not worshipped.

If this is the case, why has the Board not pursued sellers of Chinese videos around Gerrard Street, Arabic videos in Queensway and Indian videos almost anywhere in London? The Board's answer is that while this has been considered, and shops dealing in such videos are certainly legally at fault, it was decided that such a move would be offensive to minorities in a multicultural society.

Such sentiments seem admirable. But why cannot a similar courtesy be extended to that group — still unfortunately a minority in a Britain hurrying towards a united Europe — who are learning another European language, and need every stimulus from foreign classics? Must they stoop to under-the-counter transactions to further their linguistic progress?

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Hit the road, you existentialists

Cinema: Geoff Brown on new releases *Voyager*, *Europa, Stop!*, *Or My Mom Will Shoot* and *Meet The Feebles*, plus the video of Stephen Hawking's book *A Brief History of Time*

In the words of the publisher, "Reading Volker Schlöndorff's filmography is like taking a walk through world literature." This is the man who filleted Proust in *Swann in Love* and traced round landmarks of the German novel, filming Heinrich Böll, Robert Musil and Günter Grass's *The Tin Drum*. His work may not set the world on fire — the films are too chained to their sources for that — but they are clear-cut, well-crafted films and they never insult your intelligence.

Schlöndorff has now leached down from the shelf Max Frisch's novel *Homo Faber*, a child of the existentialist Fifties, first published in 1957. *Voyager* (US, Curzon West End), is the beguiling result: a cool, rational, globetrotting engineer, forced to reckon with painful feelings and the machinations of fate.

In the original, he was German; in the film, a German-French production shot in English to lure the necessary international audience, he is Sam Shepard, irredeemably American. But the lanky, weather-worn actor-dramatist paints such a telling portrait of Frisch's melancholy hero that only a pedant would complain at the switch.

From the opening moments, Walter Faber's life is dogged by strange coincidences and accidents. His New York-bound plane crashlands in the Mexican desert. Memories surface of student days in Zurich and a love affair with Hannah (Barbara Sukowa), who married another student friend. En route to Paris, a vivacious young girl (fiercely played by rising French actress Julie Delpy) tickles the engineer's interest. Faber abandons his schedule, drives her through Europe to her mother in Greece, where a variation of the Oedipus legend lies waiting.

Baldly expressed, the story may not seem much of a prize. Do not fear: the film's strength lies in its emotional texture, in the interplay between the man of science and a world of disorder. Schlöndorff's cameras alight imaginatively on every location, whether catching Delpy peering round the Louvre's sculptures, or simply observing the sites. On the soundtrack, John Harle's moody blue saxophone colics our one of Stanley Myers's better scores.

Unlike many period films, the era is never thrust in our faces, though the beady-eyed will note the torn dust-jacket of Albert Camus' *L'Étranger*, which is reverently clutched by the young heroine. The volume is well chosen, for Frisch's novel, on its first appearance, often drew comparison with Camus. From its pages Schlöndorff has fashioned a sober, refreshing art-house attraction — almost an existential road movie.

Lars von Trier's *Europa* (15, Chelsea Cinema and Everyman) easily outdistances *Voyager* in the co-production stakes: this, if you please, bears the label Danish-French-German-Swedish. But then excess

has always been von Trier's game. The Danish wonderboy of *The Element of Crime* bombs the audience with stylistic tricks, obsessive images of darkness and water, and insistent echoes of his movie idols (from Hitchcock to Fritz Lang) to his austere countryman Carl Dreyer. Behind the fireworks, though, lies a horrible void.

By setting *Europa* in the aftermath of Germany's defeat in 1945, and placing his characters largely on trains criss-crossing a landscape of perpetual night, von Trier toys with a story of political and social significance. But his metaphors remain stillborn, buried along with the bewildered actors in an avalanche of fancy images (black-and-white, flecked occasionally with colour). This is a film about nothing, except the film-maker's ego.

At the plot's centre lies a naive young American with

The film's strength lies in its emotional texture, in the interplay between the man of science and a world of disorder'

German roots (Jean-Marc Barr, who takes a job alongside his uncle as sleeping-car conductor on Germany's trains. Barbara Sukowa is on hand again, as the bewitching daughter of the rail network boss, pulling the hero into an impenetrable knot of intrigue; she also makes love on an electric train set.

The final half-hour brings a soufflé of tension and humour of a Kafka-esque kind: everything is esque in von Trier's world. But to no avail: the director's burgeoning pretensions and unchecked talent have derailed *Europa* long before.

"Get in, sweetie, we're gonna nail those turkeys!" says Estelle Getty (best known as the diminutive mother figure, Sophia, from television's comedy series *The Golden Girls*), as she drives off for a battle against the Los Angeles bad guys. Sweetie is none other than Sylvester Stallone.

He plays her son, a bachelorette police sergeant constantly embarrassed by tut-tuts and cooing remarks from his ever-

loving, meddling mother, who is visiting from New Jersey. Unlike *Europa*, *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot* (PG, Plaza) is pretension-free: the film would not tax a pigeon's brain.

Stallone handles this new comedy assignment with far greater ease than he managed in last year's *Oscar*, where he behaved like an over-wound clockwork toy. Even though momma Getty tweaks his cheeks, tucks him into bed and sings him a lullaby ("Oh Jesus", he mutters), our Rocky looks relaxed, if rueful.

Stallone may never be Cary Grant, but he can be watched without embarrassment. At least that is the case until the script buckles down to what Stallone's character calls "the feeling stuff". For Getty, the film proves an easy ride: she is chiefly required to utter aggravating comments with her razor-sharp timing, and generally look sweet, ginger hair neatly permed, holding her pet Pekinese.

After a while, though, even a comedy this trivial needs something more than a bache-lor cop and a pestering mom, album of baby photos at her elbow. So we get action: careening cars, gun-dealers, with Stallone and Getty in the thick of it.

Director Roger Spottiswoode tried a similar blend of action and comedy in *Turner & Hooch*, which celebrated another odd couple (a fastidious detective and a sloppy dog). He keeps the show on the road well enough: though when faced with cute reaction shots of Pixie the peke, blue bow in its hair, one wonders what ever happened to the talented man who made that exciting thriller *Under Fire*, nearly ten years ago.

In a perfect world, commercial cinemas would find a proper home for *A Brief History of Time* (Palace Video), a compelling treatment of Stephen Hawking's scientific best-seller from Errol Morris, the quirky director of *The Thin Blue Line*. As the world stands, this fascinating film slips into the country this week on video. But its luscious, stylised, sharp-edged photography alone makes a large screen desirable, if not essential.

"Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Hawking asks. After a startling shot of a chicken blinking before the universe's expanse, Morris leads us into the rarefied sphere of theoretical physics by first considering Hawking the man, and his battle against debilitating illness.

Then meatier matters are brought before us. Did the universe have a beginning? If so, what happened before its

arrival, and where is the universe headed? As in *The Thin Blue Line*, Morris's musical accompanist is Philip Glass, whose soundtrack contributions I have learned to dread, but here his trite arpeggiations do not impede too much.

Using a cup and saucer smashing in slow motion, computer-generated images and a hilarious clip from Disney's *The Black Hole* (1979, but already antique) Morris teases out Hawking's findings in consistently entertaining ways. This is the best kind of instructional film: lucid, involving, equally alive to cinema's magic and the play of ideas.

In *Meet The Feebles* (18, MGM Oxford Street and Panton Street), an opening announcement promises "the most fabulous show in entertainment history". If you like unfunny gags about vomit, disease, drugs and female underwear, then this odious puppet film from Peter Jackson, the bad lad of New Zealand cinema, might indeed be the ticket.

Jackson, known to late-night moviegoers for his shoe-string horror spoof *Bad Taste*, has Kiwi ingenuity to spare. But he is more mischief-maker than film-maker and signally lacks true imagination or wit. An X-certificate variant on the likes of *The Muppet Show* (the star line-up includes a drug-dealing walrus, a temperamental hippopotamus on "Miss Piggy" lines and a hare with a fatal sex disease), *Meet The Feebles* rapidly falls victim to dull, puerile jokes that only a schoolboy could love.

ARTS BRIEF

Kirov's coming

THE Kirov Ballet is returning to London in the summer of 1993 for a five-week season only four months after the Bolshoi Ballet ends its five-week "arena" season at the Albert Hall. The attraction of the 200-strong St Petersburg company is the new repertoire it will bring to Britain. Oleg Vinogradov, artistic director, is planning to present the original Lavrovsky *Romeo and Juliet* and the original Majinsky *Swan Lake*. Round off the programme will be works by the Western choreographers Tudor, Robbins and Balanchine. In its bid to earn valuable foreign currency, the Kirov is not spending more than six months a year abroad.



Vinogradov: he will bring two original productions

Last chance . . .

THE exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (071-261 0127), "Doubtless", sets out to explore "Collective Memory and Current Art", and contains its quota of the conceptual, the minimal and the plain nonsensical. Judge for yourselves until Monday.

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COMMENT

Red tape clogs up the video-recorder

A few months ago the distinguished London bookshop Grant and Cutler, an academic bookseller specialising in foreign-language texts, carried for sale a range of French videos. Among them were French film classics, including works by such revered figures as Renoir, Clair, Gance, Cocteau and Carné, and video recordings of French stage productions of Molière, Racine and others. Recently the stand of video vanished. The shop had been ordered to withdraw them from sale after a visit from police acting on information presented by the British Board of Film Classification — formerly (and more frankly) "of Film Censors". When the shop approached the BBFC, it was told that under the sweeping new powers over video conferred on the Board by the Video Recordings Act of 1984 it is illegal to offer for sale in Britain (or place a special order for) any video which does not explicitly bear the Board's seal of classification, or else (as with some operas and ballet recordings) an official exemption. Hence, in practice, all videos not originating in Britain are sold illegally.

Such sentiments seem admirable. But why cannot a similar courtesy be extended to that group — still unfortunately a minority in a Britain hurrying towards a united Europe — who are learning another European language, and need every stimulus from foreign classics? Must they stoop to under-the-counter transactions to further their linguistic progress?

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Seeking a Catholic sense of sexuality

Though Catholics are often tormented by guilt, says Roderick Strange, an angry new book will not ease their consciences

Kate Saunders and Peter Stanford have been prompted to write this book by the damage they feel Roman Catholics have suffered from their church's official teaching on sex. And while it would be wrong to suppose that all Catholics are guilt-ridden, it is certainly true that too many are. They need reassurance, need to see that their anxieties about sex do not leave them on the margin of the Catholic Church's life. It would be good to find a book which helped them.

Catholics and Sex, however, is not the book. It sees the problem, but makes matters worse. As I read, I kept asking myself: "Who is going to be helped by this?" I had to answer: "No one".

Those who are going their own way in any case will find the book irrelevant. Those who interpret Catholic pronouncements on sex in an intolerantly legalistic fashion will only be confirmed in their worst prejudices by its tabloid style. Youth will feel patronised by the authors' sudden plunge into middle-age: "We hold to the old saying that sex is wasted on the young." Those who are genuinely anxious will be made more confused by the glib advocacy of "the sex customs of our age". And those who are trying to help will feel undermined.

The perspective is askew from the start. The authors begin by asking: "Why should believers have to choose between faith in God or a rewarding sex life?" It is a good question because it expresses well the dilemma which Catholics burdened with guilt feel confronts them. In fact, they are mistaken.

Even that bogey document, *Humanae Vitae*, Paul VI's encyclical on artificial contraception, states

that sexual activity between husband and wife is "honourable and good" and does not cease to be so "even when... it is foreseen to be infertile". The language may not be attractive; there may be other issues to contest; but the point is clear. But instead of unravelling the dilemma, Saunders and Stanford adopt it without question and so fail to raise the far more significant issue if this view is mistaken, why is it so prevalent?

One reason is the doctrinal fundamentalism in the Catholic Church by which teaching is enshrined too readily as tradition and judged to be unchangeable. History is ignored. The circumstances which influenced a viewpoint are forgotten. This uncritical attitude has often guided official teaching,

leaving it defensive and fearful. It is a legacy which needs to be addressed, but the problem is not eased by critics, like Saunders and Stanford, who play the same game: once more St Augustine is on trial as the villain of the piece.

A second reason follows from the first. Negative presentation encourages bad practice. The clergy, like other professionals, make mistakes. The authors make that plain. They regale us with series of horror stories. We hear from Catholics who feel sexually repressed, from older Catholics who claim that their lives have been damaged by the attitudes they learnt at school, from the separated, divorced and remarried or those leading a double life.

Yet, without underestimating the bad practice some people may have had to endure, the presentation of their cases is too partial to be instructive. And all the while the presumption that faith and sex are in conflict blinds the authors to the



"The Confession" by Cristina Garcia Rodero (*Espana Oculta*, Little, Brown & Company, £16.99)

real nature of the Catholic Church's teaching. Let me put it simply.

The Catholic Church recognises that sex is powerful. It has power for each individual and reveals its power in the relationships we form. In other words, it is both private and public, as intensely personal as it is essentially social. As sex is social, there must be vision. At the same time, because it is personal, the vision must respect the individual. Both aspects are necessary; to neglect either creates distortion; and the Catholic Church recognises that fact. Combining the two, however, demands real sensitivity.

Moreover, of its very nature, this pastoral work defies precise formulation: discussions of the internal forum, as it is called, are usually fascinating, but unprofitable. And no approach can guarantee a happy outcome for everyone.

Of course, mistakes are made. Some priests do not handle these delicate matters well. Many others do. Even Sanders and Stanford acknowledge that, but they tend to write off examples of good practice as a lack of integrity, caring flannel, or a devious exercise in clerical control.

They suggest that some people

will find their book offensive. I am one of them, but not for the illiberal reasons they presume. I am offended because an opportunity to say something valuable on a matter of real importance to many people has been wasted. In a memorable

Tablet column, John Harriott once called for a respite from sex. He was appealing primarily to Vatican departments, but he included journalists. Saunders and Stanford should have taken his advice.

Roderick Strange was chaplain to Oxford University until 1989. Since then he has been a priest at Hyde in Cheshire. He is the author of *The Catholic Path* (OUP).

Free spirit in love with love

During her own lifetime, Claire Clairmont saw herself written out of history. The stepdaughter of "the immortal Godwin", she had been raised as a free thinker, and as part of the Shelley ménage she had embraced the world as a free spirit. By the time the first accounts of Shelley's life were to be written, Victorian biographers preferred to ignore the part played in it by this "lively, quick-witted and probably unmanagable" woman.

She, understandably, was piqued by her exclusion: "I would willingly think", she wrote in her journals, "that my memory may not be lost in oblivion as my life has been." She has had to wait for her biographers, but she has been well-served by them; now, a century after her death, comes this vivid study which has all the energy and charm of its subject.

As a girl, her romantic spirit

Nigella Lawson
CLAI
CLARMONT AND
THE SHELLEYS
By Robert Gittings
and Jo Manton
Oxford, £20

love; for him it was something less lofty. "I never loved nor pretended to love her, but a man is a man, and if a girl of eighteen comes prancing to you at all hours, there is but one way..."

Perhaps it was the same spirit of competitiveness that led Claire to seek a poet of her own, one even more famous than Mary's Shelley. She wrote to Byron, urging a meeting. He gave in. For her the affair was an example of "perfect"

love; for him it was something less lofty. "I never loved nor pretended to love her, but a man is a man, and if a girl of eighteen comes prancing to you at all hours, there is but one way..."

When Claire conceived, all that

Byron could ask was: "Is the brat mine?" The child, named Allegra, whom Claire loved with maternal passion, was taken away from her by Byron and dumped in a convent; she died at the age of five. Thereafter, Claire considered herself "as a stranger and traveller on the earth, to whom none of the many affairs of this world belong and who has no permanent township on this globe".

She travelled restlessly, working

as a governess, and "learning to be happy without happiness": in Italy, where she retraced steps once trod with Shelley; in France, where in her forties she enjoyed a clandestine affair with a man who remains unidentified; in Germany and in Russia, and made an abortive attempt to farm in Austria. She was a brilliant linguist and a teacher of sensitivity. She remained lively until her death at 81.

Towards the end of her life she confessed that "when I was a very young girl, Byron was the rage... I was young, and vain and poor... The result you know, I am too old now to play with any mock repartance." The price she paid for this was a heavy one, and she realised it. On her tombstone she requested the words to be written: "She passed her life in suffering, explaining only her faults but also her virtues."

Boffins blinded by science

Bryan Appleyard

SCIENCE AS SALVATION
A modern myth and its meaning
By Mary Midgley
Routledge, £25



Dr Mary Midgley: robust

she has. Implicit in all these arguments, she says, is a resurfacing of teleology. This was the method, overthrown by classical science, that argues backwards from purpose. In much of this scientific writing there is the newly-discovered assumption that we may be able to talk about the universe backwards from our presence in it and, therefore, to discuss our future on the basis of the pursuit of predestined pattern — in Barrow and Tipler's terms this becomes the Final Anthropic Principle.

Even when an explicit teleology is not at work — as in Atkins — the absolute insistence on the finality and rightness of science as it is now constituted amounts to the same thing. It is tempting to say all this does not matter.

These are sci-fi power fantasies for lonely boys in bedits with their *Clearasil*. In the real world most scientists are just quiet sober people getting on with their jobs.

Midgley, rightly, has no patience with this view and sees it as dangerous and corrupting. These popularisers are but the tip of an iceberg of a new scientism — the belief in the omniscience of science. Since modern science began, this belief has been in the air. With accelerating technological effectiveness it became ever more credible. Now, in our atheist, liberal societies, the belief has become the society's one universally agreed faith. The urgency of defeating scientists in all its boneheaded, philistine forms arises from the need to defend the culture against its final, entropic decay into the valuelessness that is intrinsic to the scientific project.

Midgley's positive stance —

not really detailed in this book — appears to be a humanist and ecological insistence on the totality and reality of organic, earthly life. This is fair enough, but, I suspect, a little weak. There needs to be tougher insistences on the absolute human self and on the culture that made it. The culture needs to be defended against these one-eyed fantasists as fiercely as we would defend ourselves, because, of course, it is our selves. But you can only do so much in one book and nobody could seriously ask Midgley to do more in hers.



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Genial godfather of German freedom

Willy Brandt's candour about his own mistakes lends his autobiography a rare magnanimity, Anne McElvoy discovers

Willy Brandt's decision to begin his memoirs, not with his early years, but with the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, is neither a random decision nor simply dramatic effect. Then governing mayor of West Berlin, he learned his trade as a politician in the overheated atmosphere of that Berlin crisis. That day, August 13, shaped his view of the east-west conflict and provided the kernel of the *Ostpolitik* which he sponsored from 1969.

Brandt, along with the people of Berlin, learnt that day that the Western allies would not risk confrontation to preserve German unity. The solution to Germany's trauma would have to be home-made. His initial disappointment that the Americans did not use military force to counter the East German move rapidly gave way to the tempered mixture of pragmatism and idealism which would become the hallmark of his subsequent career.

His strength both as politician and autobiographer is his ability to capture the essence of his motives elegantly and memorably.

MY LIFE IN POLITICS
By Willy Brandt
Hamish Hamilton, £20

of the German communists, who had long since sacrificed their integrity.

After the war, he exploited Berlin's centre-stage role to gain prominence and the post of governing mayor of the city served as his launching pad, bringing him nominations for the chancellorship in 1961 and 1965. The SPD's haul to office was a long one: first as junior coalition partners of the Christian Democrats in 1966, then in 1969 as the first Social Democratic-led government in Germany since 1930. Brandt's sheer staying power should not be underestimated in determining the result. His literary ally Günter Grass coined the metaphor of a snail's progress to describe Brandt's path to victory in the 1969 elections.

At times the book lapses into the monotonous tone to which politicians are prone, but Brandt cannot be boring for long. He is the master of the one-line summary of politicians and deftly combines generosity with vitriol. Thus Franz Josef Strauss, the ebullient Bavarian premier who dominated the other end of the political spectrum is perfectly encapsulated as "a powerful engine with a weak brake."

He is frank in his admiration of Adenauer, despite the personal bitterness of their bustle. But he thought Ludwig Erhard, Adenauer's brief successor as Chancellor and architect of the economic miracle, a political fool, recalling that Erhard guilelessly asked him how much it would cost to buy the eastern zone from the Russians.

You can tell who Brandt's real enemies were because he marches briskly past them in the account. Chancellor Kohl merits barely a mention. Hans-Dietrich Genscher emerges as a manipulative figure, although not a word of actual censure is uttered. There are hints that Genscher — who was interior minister in 1974 when the East German spy Günter Guillaume was discovered in Brandt's office — may have done little to avert the scandal that ensured Brandt's removal as Chancellor, thus smoothing Genscher's path to the job of foreign minister.

Brandt insists that he should not have had to resign in the wake of the affair. There is evidence that his going had more to do with discontent on the right of the party — represented by Helmut Schmidt — and fears that Brandt's concentration on *Ostpolitik* distracted him from internal affairs. Brandt was blamed for the party's defeat in regional elections that year.

Few cabinets can be described as harmonious gatherings of like-minded and lovable individuals, but that Brandt headed was outstanding in its querulousness. The bickering at the top led to an unhealthy climate in the country as a whole. The early 1970s in Germany were marked by economic slowdown and industrial unrest



which Brandt, more at home on the world stage than at the fireside, was ill-equipped to handle.

The several lapses in vigilance which led to Guillaume being allowed to rise to the job of personal assistant do suggest that Genscher and the head of the internal security service were negligent but Brandt must also bear responsibility for the ensuing disaster himself. Brandt's two main weaknesses were political arrogance, leading to the assumption that he was indispensable and always a step ahead of his opponents, and carelessness.

He admits to having known for a

year that there were suspicions surrounding his aide; he was guilty of astonishing naivety in his assumption that East Berlin would not plant an agent on the father of Germany's d閂閑te. He mishandled the aftermath of the discovery, continuing with his engagements instead of confronting the storm, and showing himself to be ill-informed about secrets to which Guillaume had access.

It is to his credit that he is candid about these errors. He is less open about the accusations of personal indiscretion which made him additionally vulnerable. Brandt could barely have found time for all the

romantic intrigues in which he was rumoured to have indulged, but his *joie de vivre* — or rather subsequent threats of revealing its exact nature — doubtless contributed to his fall. It is not for his chancellorship that Brandt will be remembered — but for his promotion of ties with East Germany and the Soviet bloc. *Ostpolitik* is his true monument.

The publication of his memoirs in English is timely, coming in the midst of a post-unification reassessment of policy towards the east. The snag of "change through convergence", as the doctrine of partial recognition of the East German

state and increased contact with citizens of the estranged Germanies was tagged, was that it resulted in a lot of convergence but not much change. Erich Honecker's regime was a few travel concessions apart, as repressive when it fell as when he came to power in 1971.

There was confusion from the start about whether Brandt's policies were meant to promote the fall of communism in the east by exposing the GDR to western influence, or whether they had the more modest aim of making life more tolerable for the peoples of both Germanies. The disadvantage of the strategy was that it gave

But even he admits that the commission failed to instigate the practical action he had hoped for and that, by the end of the 1980s, very few "developing" countries could be said to be developing at all. Brandt's conclusion that such enterprises do not change the conduct of governments of the time, but form opinions and encourage alternatives a generation down the line, may yet prove that his efforts were not in vain.

These memoirs are a rarity in both their scope and detail. They tell the story of Germany, from the Weimar Republic to the eve of unification, through the eyes of a man of extraordinary talents and all too human weaknesses. Willy Brandt at 79 is ailing but still vociferous. In a Europe dominated by detail-obsessed technocrats, whose vision and concerns seldom extend beyond the next election, he remains outstanding.

Anne McElvoy is Berlin correspondent for The Times. Her book *The Saddled Cow: East Germany's Life and Legacy* will be published in June by Faber.

TED HUGHES

Shakespeare and the Goddess

A reply to Eric Griffiths



Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra: one of the goddesses

meval schema is interesting only insofar as Shakespeare incarnates it in lives we recognise as our own. At the same time, what is also interesting, and seemed worth a book, is the fact that Shakespeare's whole vision, particularly his tragic drama, takes its shape from this "key to all mythologies". No other writer's work

is. The key to the psychological source of all these mythologies is Act I. Man worshipping the Female as his Creatrix and the source of happiness and life; Act II. Man destroying the Female — and expropriating her sexually creative magic (as ritual, culture and science).

Shakespeare adds (with mythic help) his own third segments: Act III, Man, corrected by his punishment, is redeemed by the Female who survived his assault. This pri-

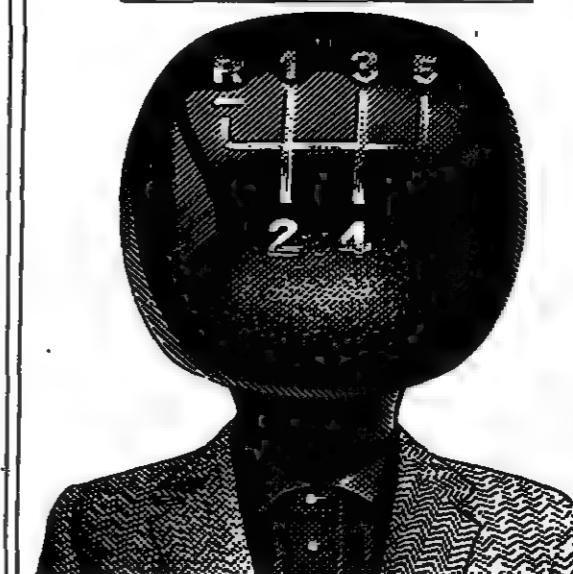
that bores Eric Griffiths. But it did not bore Shakespeare. I can argue that this was his most dynamic form of metaphor, will never see through the surface effects of poetry.

Shakespeare went on to develop the fate of this multiple, self-contradictory being — his reborn form of Adonis — in the fable of Tarquin. If my book can show how, by amalgamating those fables and the plots of his two long poems, Shakespeare created a single, explosive dramatic action, and if it can show how he pursued that action through the entire court case mentioned above, then every chapter should have a good deal to say about the musical and evolving patterns of those metamorphic elements. The theme of my book is to argue that from *Measure For Measure* onwards these processes — the court case, the evolution of the myth, and the fugue of metamorphoses — are self-evident.

Nobody doubts Shakespeare's love of the metamorphoses in Ovid. But here he seems to be demonstrating a positive obsession. Yet above all others Shakespeare knew how to find the plot that gave him the perfect image of what he had to say. Griffiths's allergy to metamorphosis is not an allergy to my book, as he professes, but to Shakespeare's poetic life.

Though Griffiths deplores it, nevertheless this shameless shape-shifting still insists on being the first principle of poetic creation. Anything can stand for anything else, and it is only an intelligent creative pattern that fixes the relationships between these things and makes meaning. But if you cannot see the patterns it is, as Griffiths says, "the jumble of an occult bookshop". Whoever lacks those "polaroids" that enable one to see the patterns in the

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The role of the Development Organisation will be to promote Hertfordshire investment both within and from outside the county, as part of a selective strategy for economic regeneration. The Managing Director of the Economic Development Organisation will be at the forefront of a marketing and communications campaign initially to launch the organisation and, thereafter, to develop and implement the agreed business plan which will include strategies for supporting existing companies and attracting new investment. This is a high profile role which will require a dynamic, self-motivated individual with outstanding managerial, promotional and communications skills. Your broad business experience should include marketing and public relations activities, ideally gained in both the private and public sectors.

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As IBM's exclusive international alliance partner for AD/Cycle and the AS400 Worldwide, SYNON has achieved an excellent reputation in the world of CASE software. Dominant in their market, they have dramatically outdistanced their competitors through focused and professional sales activity.

Their rapid growth throughout Europe, with new subsidiaries in France, Italy and Germany is closely aligned to strong relationships built with IBM as well as consistent re-investment into new and updated software products. Exciting new announcements include client server generator and change management software, as well as an increased commitment for professional services.

We seek a confident and capable individual who is highly motivated and results orientated. For more information contact: Caroline Hayward, Hayward Associates, Vigilant House, 120 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1UZ. Telephone: 071-976 6455. Fax: 071-976 6334.

HAYWARD & ASSOCIATES

Managing
Retail Marketing

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Managing Director Retail Marketing

c.£50,000 + Benefits

VG Distributors Ltd is Britain's oldest "symbol" group of food retailers. Over 700 independent retailers trade under the VG banner in a voluntary franchise arrangement, supplied by wholesaling companies who are the shareholders of the group. A senior marketer is now needed to manage the central office of the group.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Develop strategy for continued growth of retail franchise operation.
- ◆ Drive the marketing of the group through public relations, promotions and advertising.
- ◆ Maintain a leading edge in convenience store development and information technology.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Reference BL1417
NBS, Bennetts Court, 6 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5ST

Midlands



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Managing Director Subscription Collection

£40,000 + Bonus + Benefits

First General Management opportunity for young marketing professional with proven man-management, administrative and structured business skills to develop impressively backed company currently servicing the satellite TV industry.

THE COMPANY

- ◆ Backed by blue-chip investment consortium, each representing a particular aspect of the satellite TV industry.
- ◆ Unique, independent positioning. Poised for further growth and expansion into new sectors.
- ◆ Providing subscription management services across business sectors.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Reporting to Board of Investors, autonomous role with profit responsibility, implementing the strategic plan and achieving revenue targets.
- ◆ Exploit existing and new marketing/sales opportunities and provide totally professional service.

Bristol

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref AL1555
57 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4QS



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Change Management Project Role

c. £35,000 Package

A renowned market leader and major UK company is embarking upon a co-ordinated programme of cultural change. This is a key role in the project team which will lead the design and implementation of the change process. You will currently be recognised as fast track within a blue chip PLC, regarded as an implementer and influencer. Career enhancement opportunities are superb and you will be given every opportunity to achieve full potential. The benefits package and working environment are first class.

THE POSITION

- ◆ To work with the senior team to plan and drive strategic & cultural change.
- ◆ To ensure effectiveness and co-ordination of change programme through facilitation, coaching and consulting.
- ◆ The strategic input to design of management processes to ensure quality objectives.

Edinburgh

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Hands-on experience of managing the change process, ideally in a manufacturing or service environment.
- ◆ An entrepreneurial approach and highly motivated team player.
- ◆ A multi discipline background including exposure to quality management initiatives.
- ◆ An analytical approach combined with the ability to drive projects.
- ◆ A graduate with post graduate business degree, minimum 10 years experience.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref GL1533ST
78 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5UB



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Travel Services Director

Very substantial remuneration package

Kent

An exceptional opportunity for an outstanding sales and marketing or operations professional to lead the future business expansion of Sealink Stena Line, following a multi-million pound investment programme and a successful restructuring exercise.

THE COMPANY

- ◆ Leading international travel, transport and leisure services company, serving individual passengers, corporate customers, the travel industry, international hauliers and freight forwarders.
- ◆ Committed to increasing its market share, implementing travel service improvements and refining its service quality.
- ◆ Turnover exceeds £300 million. Subsidiary of the world's leading ferry operator.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Responsible for the leadership, professional performance and development of the company's sales, marketing and on-board trading activities.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref LL1554
54 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6LX



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Change Manager Power Generation

£50,000 + Bonus

2 yr. Contract - Flexible UK Location

Critically important opportunity for a systems management professional to drive fundamental change in a major corporation. Success will lead to roll-out across the UK.

THE COMPANY

- ◆ Multi-site operations, long established with market leading products, c. £2bn turnover.
- ◆ New corporate structure and direction. Well funded and profitable.
- ◆ Constructing state-of-the-art gas fired power stations supported by revolutionary organisational design concepts and sophisticated IT systems.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Lead the design, implementation and acceptance of all financial, MIS and business systems, policies and procedures. Reports to Board Executive.
- ◆ Manage internal and external resources to achieve rigorous project timescales. Control sizeable budgets.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref SL1520
7 Shakesbury Court, Chalvey Park,
Slough, SL2 5AF



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H.R. Professional International Oil Company

c. £30-40,000 Negotiable + Car & Benefits

Central London

Excellent career opportunity for a compensation and benefits specialist or personnel generalist with good exposure to compensation and benefits issues. Oil industry background preferred but not essential.

THE COMPANY

- ◆ Leading independent exploration and production company.
- ◆ Significant involvement in offshore development projects, several as operator in the North Sea.
- ◆ Expanding. Substantial growth planned in UK. Overseas ventures.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Member of new, highly professional small team upgrading personnel practices. Reports to Compensation and Benefits Manager.
- ◆ Brief to develop and implement full range of sophisticated, market related compensation and benefits policies in a greenfield environment. Work closely with line to build credible and effective relationships.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref L1410ST
54 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6LX



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The true test of the vitality of any company is how it copes when times aren't so good. Here at ASDA, we're climbing back to the top through an aggressive review of trading policy and by re-establishing our traditional values of customer service and products of the highest quality.

To drive forward this exciting process of change, we're looking for the best retailing talent to lead our stores into a new retailing revolution. It won't be a job for fainthearted - you'll have to be an inspirational leader who can motivate your staff to meet sales targets, increase our levels of professionalism and enhance our store operations across the board.

Probably in your late twenties or thirties, you'll have comprehensive experience with a supermarket retailer or in an FMCG environment as a Store Manager. Or you may be seeking to take charge of a store of your own in the near future. Most importantly, you'll need vision, determination, an excellent grasp of what makes a business successful and the ability to command the respect and loyalty of your staff.

As you would expect, success in the position opens up the widest range of career options, and the attractive benefits package includes contributory pension scheme, private health care and performance related pay.

So if you have the talent, ambition and commitment to succeed, we'd like to hear from you. Please write with full personal and career details to: Ken Gale, Group Employee Relations Director, ASDA Stores Limited, ASDA House, Southbank, Great Wilson Street, Leeds LS1 5AD.

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SECURITY MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC IT ROLE - GREENFIELD OPPORTUNITY

North-West England

£38,000 + bonus + car

Our client is the major operating subsidiary of a large plc, in the midst of significant transformation, diversification and worldwide expansion. Committed to being a leader in its field, the key to competitive advantage lies in IT. A £multimillion investment is planned to take the company to the leading edge of technology.

This new senior position offers the opportunity to join the organisation in a strategic, high-profile role. Your objectives are clear: to provide advice to senior management on information security requirements: to establish security policy and standards in a complex distributed environment; and to educate staff at all levels in this critical discipline.

Liaising with the highest management levels in both business and technical environments will enable you to demonstrate your business-oriented, common-sense approach to defining security guidelines; and

your communication and facilitation skills will ensure their implementation and ongoing maintenance. Ideally a graduate with a background in consultancy or security projects, you will possess an innovative and proactive approach, with the ability to think in both strategic and tactical terms. While a broad understanding of both IT and security issues is essential, technical skills are of secondary importance. Ambition, dynamism and the personal qualities to motivate others are key in coping with the demands of this position.

Your efforts will be recognised by an impressive salary package, including performance bonus, company car, pension, medical insurance and, if appropriate, relocation expenses. In the longer term, the company offers excellent career prospects throughout the group.

To apply, please send full career details, indicating current salary, to Zillah Jamieson, Ref: 5514/ZJ/ST, PA Consulting Group, Fountain Court, 68 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2FE.

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Executive Recruitment - Human Resource Consultancy - Advertising and Communications

SHAPING THE PEOPLE WHO FORM OUR FUTURE

Mercury Communications is one of Britain's fastest growing and most dynamic organisations. Our record of success in the telecommunications industry is unparalleled. Equally impressive as our economic achievement is our commitment to creating a culture of Total Quality both in core business activities and internal organisational structure.

A recent, extensive review of our training & management development activities has created opportunities for HR professionals to be instrumental in shaping the development of new and existing programmes.

Management Development Specialist

c.£35k + car London Ref: MDS

This is a unique opportunity to work in a team of committed management development professionals and drive a complete range of activities ranging from training programme design and delivery to the running of senior management development centres. Since your prime focus of work will be running a range of manager courses, extensive experience in training at a management level is essential. This should have been gained in a blue-chip organisation, business school or consultancy, where you will also have implemented one or more development initiatives such as competencies, performance management systems, succession planning and self-managed learning schemes. * For this appointment we will also consider part-time contracts of employment with a negotiated benefits package.

Employee Development Manager

to £32k + car Birmingham Ref: EDM

Senior Employee Development Advisers

to £30k London & Bracknell Ref: EDA

We have recently begun specific tailoring of development activities to meet local business needs and now seek regionally based specialists to

support this. As a member of our headquarters team you will work alongside the local personnel function, where you will analyse training needs, design and deliver programmes, provide advice on development issues and contribute to centrally-run business training courses. This will require extensive liaison at all levels within the region as well as with external consultants.

In all cases, we require professionals with immediate credibility, excellent communication skills and a committed team approach. A graduate, probably with IPM or ITD qualifications, you will have at least 8 years' relevant experience. The challenge is complex and demanding, requiring an assertive yet approachable personality and the ability to handle a number of projects simultaneously. In turn, we offer you the opportunity to broaden your experience and develop your career. Attractive salaries are further enhanced by competitive benefits including five weeks' holiday, BUPA and pension.

If you have the skills to shape the people who will form our future, please send your c.v. with a covering letter including details of current salary and explaining how your experience matches the position for which you have applied. Quote the appropriate reference on both the letter and envelope and address your application to Caroline Ford, Mercury Communications Limited, New Mercury House, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4HQ.



SALES MANAGER

The opportunity has arisen to join an expanding directory publishing company in the key role heading the sales function.

Part of the Argus Press Group, the Company has been active in developing its client base over the last two years and publishes directories for a diverse range of clients - Chambers of Commerce, Local Authorities, Institutes etc - as well as a range of titles on its own behalf.

The position carries the responsibility for the achievement of the Company's sales objectives and heads an active tele-sales department from which emanates the vast majority of its revenues.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a successful sojourn in a similar capacity with a like publishing company.

The post carries a good earnings package in addition to the usual range of benefits.

Write, enclosing a full CV, to

General Manager
Guardian Communications Ltd
Albany House
Hurst Street
Birmingham
B5 4BD

Divisional Director

With management skills, marketing flair and a commitment to Third World issues

c.£36,000 + car

The challenges facing charities in a world beset by problems are truly immense, the need for funds and commitment limitless - yet last year OXFAM raised a record £69 million. That's a tribute to the skill and dedication of our staff.

To meet the needs of this fast moving and ever changing world, we are restructuring and streamlining our operation and this role has been created as a result.

You will have total responsibility for forming a new Division responsible for fund raising, public affairs and communications. You will lead around 300 employees and 3000 volunteers involved in increasing support and changing attitudes through direct mail, advertising, press and public relations, local campaigning, schools education and much more besides.

One of our Directors, you will also be a key member

Oxford

of the Corporate Management team. The role will appeal to a man or woman with extensive experience of leading and motivating a large multi-disciplinary team, knowledge of marketing practice, and an understanding of Third World issues. The challenge is to harness different abilities and enthusiasm in vigorously implementing OXFAM strategy using your highly developed communication skills. This will require vision, passion and the initiative and personal drive to make things happen.

Please send a full CV and salary details to Barrie Witt, Director, Townsend Knight Consulting Limited, Tricorn House, 51-53 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8TP. If you require more information, please telephone 021 456 1385 during office hours. Please quote Ref: LS947. Closing date: 27th April, 1992.



Oxfam is striving to be an equal opportunity employer.

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Personnel Manager

Mature Professional ... or international career potential?

SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES : c.£30K + car + benefits

Part of a major, expanding, international manufacturing group - an innovative world leader in industrial packaging - this thriving company has a profitable UK turnover of \$90 million. Concern for quality and service is strongly evident throughout their 15 UK manufacturing centres.

Based at head office and reporting to the Board, you will develop strategic HR policies within this decentralised group and, with your small central team, advise line management on their implementation and provide proactive, expert support on all employment matters.

Educated to degree level and MIPM, you will be either in your 50s with considerable

professional stature or alternatively mid 30s and capable of developing an international career with the group.

Your experience, gained in a progressive manufacturing environment, will include front line, multi-union exposure. Your professional skills and knowledge will be broad based with an emphasis on legislation and employee relations.

This is a demanding role which calls for an outstanding manager with a proven track record of success.

Please write with full career and salary details - in confidence - to Ron Goldie, reference 35004, MSL Group Ltd, Sovereign House, 12-18 Queen Street, Manchester M2 5HS.

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TURNKEY CIVIL COMMUNICATIONS SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMERCIAL PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

South East

With a record order book of £100m, with a significant proportion in export markets, this division of a major high technology group, has achieved outstanding success world-wide. With high-value turnkey project orders spanning broadcast, mobile, microwave and antenna systems, effective commercially orientated project management is vital to the financial success of this newly grouped organisation.

Programme Manager £35k+car Reporting directly to the Divisional Director, your brief will be to ensure that all projects are delivered on time, and within budget costs. This is not a development role, but a man management one, encompassing all aspects of project implementation in the division. Projects range in value from £1-30m with a combined project administration staff of 50.

Essentially candidates must be able to demonstrate success in commercially orientated project management of £ multi-million contracts in the electronics sector. Excellent presentation skills, both written and oral, are essential, especially for the more senior position, where formalised reporting of turnover, costs, progress milestones and contract reviews are made on a systematic basis, at the highest levels in the company. As an integrated business, designing, developing, manufacturing and installing, key to your success will be your proven ability to influence effectively, all areas of a large and complex organisation, as well as providing a credible interface with a demanding multi-cultural customer base. It is unlikely that candidates from a purely defence background or from outside of the electronics industry will have the expertise we seek. These are high profile roles in a progressive and expanding organisation. A full range of large company benefits, including relocation assistance, are available to successful candidates.

In the first instance, please write enclosing full career details to: Bill Peach, Randall Massey Consultants, 7 Dorcan Business Village, Murdock Road, Dorcan, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 5HY. Telephone: (0793) 432882. Fax: (0793) 531215.

RANDALL MASSEY

Director Fresh Food Processing

"develop the full potential of a modern production facility"

c.£47,500 + car

Reporting to the Chairman, you will bring this purpose built plant to a level of efficiency commensurate with supplying major multiples cost effectively.

A very extensive range of added value products - both branded and own label - is processed by a 300 strong labour force, achieving annual sales of £12m. Additionally, you will be expected to contribute significantly on policy and strategic planning at Board level in this £35m company, which is totally involved in fresh food and which has - within its industry - an enviable growth rate and sound profit record.

You will offer experience of profit responsibility and production in the

supply of added value fresh food products to major multiples, including labour intensive operations, complicated production runs and high production volumes. Additionally you will have personally liaised with major multiples.

The preferred age for this appointment, which has an East Midlands location, is 35-45, although exceptional experience could broaden these parameters.

Interested? Then please forward a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae, quoting reference 2031, to Dennis Fielding, Management Appointments Limited, Finland House, 56 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RN. Tel: 071-930 6314. Fax: 071-930 9539.

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PC SPECIALIST

DELIVER THE FULL PERFORMANCE OF 1200 PCs

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Package c.£35,000 + car + benefits

This leading international information organisation with an unparalleled reputation for reliability and continuous technological innovation, is constantly developing its communications network to stay ahead of the demands of the world's financial and business communities.

It is currently implementing a new client-server system using an IBM mainframe, UNIX and PCs, and needs a business-oriented PC specialist to manage the technology aspects of delivering services through 16 LANs supporting 1200 PCs - specifically

focusing on infrastructure, strategy/policy and architecture. Considerable end-user contact will be involved, and the production and control of standards governing the implementation and systems management of LANs and PCs is a key task.

To be successful in this challenging and high-visibility role, superb interpersonal skills must be matched by excellent technical abilities covering Novell LAN technology, NETBIOS, MS DOS operating systems, Windows and GUIs. Your overall IS experience will have included a PC LAN implementation and experience of PC systems integration with IBM/UNIX/VAX systems is highly desirable.

To apply, please send a brief cv to Lynne Stafford, Ref: 5655/LS/ST, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR.

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c. £50,000
+ fully expensed car
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Project Manager

M4 Corridor

A leading strategic role in a key £multi-million development project

Our client operates a fast-moving and complex global business right at the forefront of the Information Technology industry. Their substantial investment in ambitious growth is reflected in their current wish to appoint a Project Manager of the highest calibre to take responsibility for a strategic, £multi-million development project. You will be given the authority and flexibility to manage every aspect of this critical and complex project, from inception through specification and risk management to delivery and deployment. You will be required to develop and implement successful project plans to meet our client's marketing strategy. This will involve matrix management of a team of 40+ people, complex negotiations with external bodies including third party software developers and internal liaison at a senior level.

Our client's profile is therefore very demanding. We seek a proven track record of at least 5 years' experience of managing large, complex IT projects, demonstrating your ability to manage resources and people to time and budget. Strong, effective inter-personal and negotiation skills are paramount. The state-of-the-art technology, excellent rewards and genuinely outstanding career potential will make this an unusually attractive opportunity for a candidate of the right calibre. In the first instance, please write with your CV or fax it, in complete confidence, to: Par Staunton, Resources International plc, 31 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3SG. Fax: 071-323 3094. Alternatively, telephone her on 071-323 5544 until 10pm each evening, or 071-323 9045 late evenings and weekends.

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Intercontinental Medical Statistics is the world leader in the provision of marketing, sales, research and development information to the health care industry. We provide our services in both printed and on-line formats to put clients around the world in touch with pharmaceutical and medical information.

Our UK operation, encompassing a range of businesses, is based in London - Euston Road and Pinner. We are seeking a dynamic, purchasing professional with a strong combination of interpersonal skills and initiative to take on the new role of Purchasing Manager at our Euston Road site.

We want you to develop the purchasing function into a proactive service, offering advice and expertise to all departments. The job will be stimulating and diverse for the candidate who has flair and a determination to succeed. The continued development of your two-strong team will also be one of your objectives.

IMS AG (UK Branch)

A member of the Dun & Bradstreet Group of Companies

In order to gain the confidence and support of our department managers, you must have substantial purchasing experience and excellent interpersonal and management skills. You will need to command respect and convey authority, while at the same time demonstrating tact and diplomacy. A proven track record of successful negotiation and examples of innovative thinking are also vital. Some knowledge of information technology would be useful.

The salary of around £28,000 is supported by a company car and range of benefits including non-contributory pension scheme, free life assurance, health care and, initially, 25 days' annual leave.

If you feel you could take on the challenge, please send your full career and salary details to John Smith, Human Resources Manager, IMS AG (UK Branch), 364 Euston Road, London NW1 3BL.

DIRECTORS SEEKING A NEW ROLE?

InterExec is the largest consultancy, with 40 full-time professional staff, providing tailored career development and outplacement services to both employer sponsored and private clients.

InterExec is the only outplacement consultancy generating a significant database of unadvertised vacancies and able to promote individuals, without charge, for appropriate vacancies through our licensed subsidiary, InterMex.

Call Keith Mitchell to arrange an exploratory meeting without obligation.

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INTER EXEC PLC means much more

SECURITY CONTROLLER

£45k + car

London

Inspired by a highly competent management team, Woolworths continues to maintain its momentum of profitable growth and enhanced customer service. The retirement early next year of our Security Controller means we have an opportunity for a business professional to join our top team.

The remit encompasses a nationwide network of 800 stores, 2 distribution centres and our Head Office in Central London. With responsibility for a substantial annual budget, your brief will be to further develop an already effective operation by devising and implementing cost-efficient and practical corporate security policies.

Reporting to the board of directors, your contribution will be of strategic and financial significance. As well as heading

a specialist team, you will work closely with line management colleagues to develop optimum policies and practices, and to maintain within the business a high awareness of security risks and responsibilities. Although a background in security or retailing is highly desirable, more important are proactive interpersonal skills, and evidence of sound commercial acumen.

The benefits package will be arranged to reflect the seniority of this appointment. Please forward your career history to: Leo McKee, Personnel Director, Woolworths plc., 242-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL Tel. 071-706 5586.

WOOLWORTHS

FRONT-OFFICE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

International Market Making and Corporate Finance

LONDON

ANALYSTS

Packages to £35k

Smith New Court is the UK's leading independent securities house specialising in the research, origination, distribution and trading of equities and their derivative products. The Group is one of the largest international market makers and institutional brokers in the United Kingdom and has a rapidly expanding corporate finance business.

Two major projects are now planned to develop systems in support of front-office business users. The first will serve our INTERNATIONAL MARKET MAKING division. The second will support the company's CORPORATE FINANCE division.

We are now looking for the professionals who will design, develop and deliver these systems within the next 12 to 15 months, and then go on to play central roles in our future growth.

PROJECT MANAGERS

Packages to £45k

The two Project Managers will both be graduate calibre professionals, with excellent track records in front-office systems development. Strong business skills and delivery orientation will enable them to forge strong relationships with demanding users.

The International Market Making system will be a package solution based on the evaluation of user and business needs. You must therefore have in-depth experience of implementing and tailoring major packages and working effectively with systems vendors at all stages of a large project. The system is to be installed initially in London, but as the business continues to expand internationally - your role could grow accordingly.

The MIS and client support systems to be developed for Corporate Finance will be greenfield developments, so this implementation role demands experience of planning, developing and implementing front-office networked PC systems.

The development platform is to be client-server based, using Microsoft Windows and relational database technology, closely linked with our VAX settlement systems.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Package to £40k

As part of the Corporate Finance project, this Analyst/Programmer will work closely with users to understand their requirements, design and build prototypes and implement the final solution. You must be experienced in programming within a Microsoft Windows environment and have previously designed systems with complex user interfaces. Experience in SQL, Windows, Excel or C and SQL is preferred, with knowledge of VAX/Cobol an added advantage.

JM 1992

SMITH NEW COURT

SALES DIRECTOR

Retail Electrical

Northern Home Counties

c. £65,000
Car, Benefits

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BIRMINGHAM, STEVENAGE AND LONDON

Setting and rigorously maintaining the highest IT consultancy standards, particularly when the demand for skills by clients continues to outstrip expectations, is the hallmark of PA Consulting Group, the leading international management and technology consultancy.

Our specialist consultancy and implementation services, which provide real benefits to public and private sector clients alike, include IT strategy and planning, software engineering and design, network planning and the implementation of state-of-the-art IT systems.

We never compromise on recruitment standards: we continue the search for the right people until we find them - experienced and capable specialists, at all levels of seniority, who have a proven track record in their field and will thrive in a demanding and stimulating environment. Our search at present covers the following:

Programmers, Analysts and Systems Designers

With two to eight years' experience, preferably using structured programming, analysis and design techniques (SSADM or YOURDON) and familiar with OSI concepts. Programmers should have experience of one or more of "C", 4GLs, COBOL or SQL. Systems Designers should be familiar with relational databases (ORACLE, INGRES or SYBASE) and experience of a "windows" environment and GUIs would be an asset.

IT Strategists

With considerable experience in IT strategy at Board level, information

systems planning, using IT to re-engineer the business, and formulating and planning the technical architecture.

Office Systems Consultants

With a track record in developing office or management information systems architectures based on open standards. Experience of business analysis and the role of Open Systems standards in a client-server environment is required. We are also looking for people with experience in case management, workflow automation, document management and image processing systems.

Telecommunications Consultants

Experienced telecommunications professionals with a track record in delivering substantial business benefits. We are looking for experts in OSI standards, regulations, LAN/WAN interworking, mobile and satellite communications, network management and network designers and implementers with proven experience of large multi-vendor LANs and WANs across a wide range of protocols.

IT Marketing Specialists

Experienced marketers with a track record in designing and implementing solutions to market-related issues in the IT sector. A good knowledge is required of the issues facing European service and equipment providers, as well as practical experience in product and market planning. Specific knowledge of telecommunications markets and their regulation would be particularly valuable.

IT Project and Technical Managers

With experience in successfully managing significant IT projects and with technical management skills in areas such as IT infrastructure, data centre operations and systems development.

Sales and Business Developers

Senior people with the skills and proven success in building lasting relationships with clients and selling consultancy assignments in any of the above skill areas.

We place considerable importance on sector experience, particularly in Financial Services, Local and Central Government, Utilities and Information Industries.

To apply, you should either have a degree or be professionally qualified with proven analytical and presentation skills, a high level of professional credibility, confidence, acute business awareness and the ability to relate to senior client management.

Salaries will reflect experience and qualifications and long-term career development is linked primarily to personal performance. Benefits will include a car and the opportunity for equity participation.

Please send your cv, in confidence, indicating the positions in which you are interested and how your experience meets our needs, to Dick White, Ref: ST74/92, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Place Road, London SW1W 9SR.

PA is an equal opportunity employer.

Volvo Concessionaires Ltd, as the importer of Volvo cars into the UK, has an excellent record of growth and profitability built over more than 30 years. Now an integral part of Volvo Car Corporation of Sweden, we are looking to build still further on our success, and most importantly to continue our investment in people. These two new positions are examples of this commitment.

LEASING AND PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGER

up to £30,000 + car

An affinity with Volvo's quality brand image is key, as are the interpersonal skills and consultative style which build long term business to business relationships. Applicants must also have an in-depth understanding of the leasing/contract hire business, although not necessarily in the car industry.

Your remit will be to maximise our corporate business volumes through senior level contact with leasing companies and public sector organisations. Of graduate calibre, you must possess the credibility and experience to be viewed by chief executives as their prime point of contact within Volvo. The appointed candidate may choose to be either office or field based.

OPEN YOUR MIND



PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

up to £30,000 + car

Based at our head office in Marlow you will be a truly innovative PR manager with broad experience, and mature but tough interpersonal skills. You will have proven success as a strategist, planner and implementer in a brand culture.

You will add value to the marketing strategy through effective PR planning in line with marketing initiatives and new launches. As an opportunist, you will ensure the continued enhancement of Volvo brand values.

VOLVO

IT PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Project, We Can't Talk About

A SMALL APOLOGY

Unfortunately, we cannot reveal the exact details of the project our client is currently working on. Its financial implications are too great to permit us to do so.

We can tell you, however, that the company is the market leader in software development for the life assurance and banking industry - its products are the first choice with many blue chip companies.

This initiative constitutes a major re-engineering of transactions between insurance organisations and point-of-sale outlets. Backed by many of the UK's leading financial institutions, it is undoubtedly the largest single project of its kind.

The Prospects We Can

AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY

at least
£65k
plus car

As Project Director, you will play a key role in controlling and shaping the success of the project, directing the development of an already major software product to meet the next generation of client needs. You will be the project's driving force meeting revenue targets and timescales, and motivating, directing and managing working groups.

So, as well as the expertise to balance technology with sales and commerce, you will be a strong communicator, able to liaise at every level. You'll need to be every bit as exceptional as the project you'll work on, with the personal charisma and credibility to command the respect of senior IT professionals in the insurance industry, and the track record to merit it.

Obviously, an insurance industry background and IT skills of the highest order are pre-requisites but just as important are strong interpersonal and negotiating skills and very high levels of drive and energy for this major departure.

The rewards reflect the prominence of the position and will be accompanied by a comprehensive benefits package.

Please send your CV to Mike Milner at MJM Recruitment Ltd, Little Orchard House, Main Street, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire WR11 5LD. Fax No: (0789) 490646. Tel No: (0789) 772127.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR Somerset

£25k + Bonus + Car + Benefits

The Somerset Training & Enterprise Council (TEC) has a pivotal role to play in the economic development of the County of Somerset. In order to enhance its activities the TEC is seeking a well seasoned businessman/woman to promote the services and programmes of the TEC and to develop new products to meet the market need.

The ideal candidate will be a persuasive communicator able to operate at a wide range of levels in industry, commerce, education, and the professions. Knowledge of the training environment and of current management theory and practice is essential and a professional qualification would be an advantage. It is likely that a background in sales and marketing will be the most appropriate, educated to degree level, and with subsequent general management experience to provide an overall view of how businesses function. Analytical skills and experience of controlling a sizeable budget are very important. It is necessary to have a personal commitment to excellence in training and enterprise development.

This exciting high profile role will provide excellent opportunities for personal growth, to make a significant contribution to the economy of Somerset and to be part of the senior management team of this thriving and innovative TEC.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV and quoting reference P1907.

M.R. Flanagan, Managing Director
Shannon Consulting Group, 3 Maer Road, Exmouth EX8 2DA



SOMERSET



HOBBS



IMR

SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

BASED SURREY INCOME POTENTIAL £50,000+

Our clients market a very advanced range of high quality security shutters which provide protection for all types of commercial and domestic premises. This is a fast growing market, fuelled by the rapidly increasing levels of crime. At present, sales are made to the end-user by a direct sales team. The Company also carries out the interior refurbishment of commercial premises.

They now seek a Sales and Marketing Director to develop the business. He or she will have a proven track record in a position with a similar level of responsibility and will have successfully implemented marketing and sales strategies which have led to substantial success.

Income potential, in the first year, will be around £50,000 with an option to acquire a shareholding in the Company which he or she will be instrumental in developing.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV and quoting reference P1907.

Douglas & Pilkington Ltd
Sales and Marketing Consultants

19 Church Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 6RJ

Investment Software
International Sales Executive

High base OTE £50,000+

Part of a \$ billion group this supplier of software for the accounting, management and analysis of trading and investment portfolios needs a sales executive to initiate new business strategies in Europe. A self-reliant sales professional you will be of graduate calibre, aged 28-35, fluent in two European languages with a good understanding of the securities markets.

CASE/AI
Product Marketing
£28,000 + car

This major IT company is looking to appoint a marketing professional within its UK software team to be responsible for liaison with product suppliers and managing a portfolio of CASE/AI products. You will carry substantial business management responsibility, and be the UK centre of excellence and strategy for this market area, hence a strong background in CASE/AI is required.

For a confidential discussion regarding these or other options contact Maggie Lawrence or Caroline Bassinder, alternatively send your cv.

PEOPLE. PRODUCT. PROFESSIONALISM.

Retail Area Managers – Nationwide Opportunities

Package to £25K + Bonus + Car +
Benefits + Relocation

Our client is a major fashion retailing group that recognises its people as its major asset. They have a refreshing operating philosophy under which initiative is positively encouraged. Responsibility and decision making is devolved to branch level redefining the usual Area Management role to one of key strategic importance.

The Group are seeking talented retailers to join them as Area Managers. You will be running a challenging area from small stores to major High Street locations with a brief that is wide ranging and highly proactive.

Candidates will need to demonstrate a successful track record in Retail at Senior Management level ideally gained in a fashion environment. This will be combined with a high degree of motivation and communication skills and the vision to lead and develop a team of Store Managers.

As a people driven company that thrives on ideas, they are seeking confident, creative thinkers with excellent business instincts who are not afraid to challenge existing practices.

If you are someone who enjoys life, who loves to train and motivate and who knows how to bring out the best in people, this represents a unique challenge.

To apply, please write with your CV to Chris Blackburn, Rada Recruitment Communications, 195 Easton Road, London NW1 2BN.

Please indicate any company to which your details should not be sent.

Rada

RECRUITMENT
COMMUNICATIONS

Corporation of London Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor

The Corporation of London wishes to make a senior appointment - Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor - due to the retirement of the present incumbent.

The Lord Mayor is the Head of the Corporation, the local authority for the City of London. He is a major spokesman for the City and its markets and services, and travels widely in the UK and overseas, promoting the City and the nation. He also performs a unique diplomatic function, receiving and entertaining visiting foreign Heads of State and dignitaries.

The Private Secretary supports and advises the Lord Mayor in this work. In particular the candidate is responsible for:

- the co-ordination and planning of the Lord Mayor's activities
- developing a close relationship with the City, government departments and other agencies
- the efficient overall management of the Mansion House team.

The ideal candidate will have held a senior management role in either a City institution, a Government department, local

government or the Services, and must have proven management skills.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate the following personal characteristics:-

- excellent communication skills
- outstanding organisational and planning abilities
- flexible management style and a high level of personal integrity
- ability to liaise with senior City and Government figures in a diplomatic manner.

The candidate would normally be aged between 45 and 53, and a first class salary and benefits are offered for this responsible and important position.

If you think you can fulfil these requirements then please write in confidence to J. David Preston, quoting reference ST168 at, Robson Rhodes, 186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU.

ROBSON RHODES

Management Consultancy



Regional Sales Manager PRE-PRESS INDUSTRY

c. £38K OTE • Car • Private Healthcare

Location: Southern England

Our client is a world leader in supplying state of the art products, systems and consumables for the pre-press industry. Their expertise in combining photographic and electronic systems has automated and improved the quality of imagesetting and colour reproduction output and created enormous demand for their services. As a result, they now seek an ambitious individual with a successful track record in selling or managing sales into major accounts within any of the following sectors:

- pre-press/reprographics industry
- publishing houses
- large commercial printers
- print division within large corporates

In addition you should have the ability to manage a multi-disciplined sales and support team and have the business acumen to develop a regional profit centre. If you are looking for a long term career with a major company offering an excellent salary package including Pension and Private Healthcare then, in the first instance, call Terry Hobbs today (Sunday) between 5-8pm on 081-460 5800, or during normal office hours. Alternatively write in confidence to The Hobbs Consultancy Limited, PO Box 177, Bromley, Kent BR1 3WJ. Tel: 081-460 5800. Fax: 081-290 0913.

HOBBS
CONSULTANCY LIMITED

RECRUITMENT THROUGH EXPERIENCE



OVERSEAS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITIES

We are a major international Management Consultancy, with rapidly expanding organisations in France, Italy, Spain, Germany and South Africa as well as the United Kingdom. We are primarily interested in consultants at all levels to work in Germany and South Africa.

The Institute of Management Resources (IMR) specialises in improving clients' performance in all functional areas. Our success is attributed to: our methodologies, our co-venture approach with clients, but above all the quality of our work.

We are seeking Project Executives, Managers and Experienced Consultants with a minimum of one years' experience in consulting. We are only interested in hearing from people who have previously worked for international consultancies.

Project Managers

c.18 Months Fixed Contracts

Salaries: c. £40,000 + Bonus + Benefits + Car

Location: Midlands

Our client, a major automotive company, is embarking on a multi-million pound investment programme with the aim of gaining a significant competitive advantage through changing from "build to stock" to "build to order".

Information Technology lies at the heart of this ambitious project which, over the next two years, will necessitate the parallel development and delivery of a number of core business systems, covering commercial, production and Dealer support applications. These systems are key to the future success of the business, and we now seek to recruit a number of outstanding Project Managers to ensure that these critical development projects are delivered on time and within budget.

Candidates must be able to offer at least 10 years' IT experience, which will include 5 at project management level. Experience of delivering major complex projects from inception to implementation and user acceptance is essential, together with

knowledge of at least one established project management discipline.

The ability to prioritise, manage and co-ordinate the activities of multi-disciplined systems and business professionals in a demanding, high pressure environment is a pre-requisite. Of equal importance will be a results orientated approach and commitment to the delivery of quality systems.

Undoubtedly, we are seeking candidates of the highest calibre. In return, we can offer unparalleled opportunities to make a key contribution to the success of this most ambitious and high-profile project.

If you feel that you possess the experience, drive and commitment to succeed in one of these challenging roles, please write to our advising consultants, Karen Baines and Ian Brindle, at Harvey Nash, enclosing a full CV with daytime telephone number and current salary details. Please quote ref: HNS76 ST.

HARVEY NASH

DRAGON COURT, 27-29 MACKLIN STREET, LONDON WC2R 8LX TEL: 071-333 0033

SEARCH & SELECTION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

whitehead selection

Managing Director

Service Driven Manufacturing
East Anglia

c. £70,000, bonus, car, benefits

This c£35m, 500 employee manufacturing company, an autonomous division of a long established and profitable private group, has developed an excellent reputation in its field based on consistently high quality of product and service.

The impending retirement of the incumbent has made way for a progressive Managing Director who will lead them through the next stage of development. Reporting to the Chairman, this position carries full P&L responsibility for the Division and will include a place on the Main Board.

Aged 40-50 and probably educated to degree level, you will have a proven record of success in general management gained within a 'blue chip', service driven, manufacturing organisation with a turnover at least in excess of £15m. Some experience of a unionised environment and a sound understanding of up to date computerised manufacturing systems and controls will be essential.

The salary package includes a performance related bonus scheme together with a range of excellent fringe benefits. Relocation assistance to this attractive area will be provided where necessary. (Ref 560)

Please write enclosing CV to James Thorne, Whitehead Selection Ltd, 43 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HF.

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AIRLINE GENERAL MANAGER

Johannesburg, South Africa

Attractive Remuneration Package

Virgin Atlantic is acknowledged as leading the way in the International Airline Industry by providing award-winning service that is both innovative and highly personalised. Value for money and quality are, however, also key contributors to Virgin's rapid growth and undeniable success. Behind all of this, the business has one overriding priority - the fare paying passenger.

You don't get voted 'Airline of the Year' and 'Best Transatlantic Carrier' without a lot of effort on everyone's part. At the end of the day, it's people that count - both customers and staff - so clearly we expect your personal style will reflect this philosophy.

This appointment is a golden opportunity for the right person to open up Africa to the "Virgin" experience by establishing the airline's first operation in the Southern Hemisphere. It's a major role with true general management responsibilities covering every aspect of the

operation. These will include Marketing, Sales, Finance, PR, Airport Management and overall strategic thinking - starting from scratch and moving towards building a smooth running, highly professional and successful new route from London to Johannesburg.

You must have a good working knowledge of the retail travel industry in South Africa. Additionally, however, your career will probably have included involvement in Sales/Marketing with more recent exposure in a broader, general management role. Previous airline experience is certainly a must and the unique style of "Virgin" as a carrier will require an above average individual of sufficient calibre to effectively promote these aspects within the South African aviation market. Consequently, your personal drive and ability to motivate others to achieve the highest possible standards of excellence must be paramount.

Naturally such a major role will attract a highly competitive remuneration package reflecting the seniority and scope of the position.

Interested candidates should apply in the first instance to Ron Irving at our London office by sending a current Curriculum Vitae in an envelope marked clearly with our reference RH1492.

We look forward to hearing from you.

HAMILTON IRVING
CONSULTANTS IN HUMAN
RESOURCES AND RECRUITMENT

No 6 Brown's Gate
Buckhurst Park, Essex
TN22 1PF
Telephone: 081-995 8949
Fax: 081-995 7765

IVO ENERGY LIMITED BUSINESS ANALYST POWER GENERATION PROJECTS

Excellent Package

Our client, IVO Energy Limited, is the UK holding Company of Imatra Voima Oy (IVO), the leading Finnish power and heat generation, transmission and engineering Company, which supplies nearly half the electricity consumed in Finland. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generation is one of the specialities of the IVO Group.

In the UK IVO is well established in the Independent Power Generation (IPG) markets, operating the Peterborough 360 MW and Brigg 240 MW gas-fired power projects. In Brigg, IVO also holds 25% of the equity IVO's own development, the 1,000 MW Humber Power Project, is well advanced.

The role will have full responsibility for the critical economic analysis of power generation projects and will include operational and financial modelling. The nature of the job and the Company will require a high degree of intellectual and personal flexibility. You will almost certainly be drawn closer to the business than in your present role; input into the preparation of proposals will be required; full participation in a small, professional team is

essential, as is the positive collaboration with Group specialists and colleagues; furthermore, your involvement can be expected to extend to our European operations.

You will probably be aged between 27-33 and have:

- a good university degree
- a successful track record in financial analysis
- excellent operational modelling skills of generation projects
- experience in power generation related matters, preferably in power offtake and gas purchase agreements

This is a demanding role within a dynamic international team based at the Salford Quays. There will be an induction programme, both in London and Finland, and further opportunities for personal development within an expanding organisation.

Applicants should send their CVs with a covering letter, indicating present salary levels, to: Kitte Rajapuro, Mercury Urval Executive Search, Spencer House, 29 Grove Hill Road, Marlow, Middlesex, HP1 3HN, Fax No: 081 861 1976, quoting ref. KP/02/92.

Mercury Urval

Executive Service

(Ref. No. SE/1500)

Mergers and acquisitions was once a leading feature of British business life. How are its practitioners getting on now? Clare Hogg finds out

Secrets of the City survivors

The mergers and acquisitions business is in the doldrums. So is most of British business, but whereas many companies are admitting to a significant amount of "downsizing", those specialising in the M & A field are emerging unscathed. What is their secret?

Korn/Ferry International, a leading executive search firm, recently conducted a survey, which found that the M & A experts' weapons for survival are "a high degree of sector specialisation, language skills, creativity and a strong streak of arrogance".

Banks today are looking for sector specialists in order to be able to offer what is termed "value added" service to clients, and thence gain an edge in the market.

Schroders, for example, is particularly well-established in the oil and gas sectors. Salomon Brothers and Goldman Sachs are well-known for their knowledge of financial institutions. As Richard Templeton, director of senior corporate finance at Robert Fleming, says, "Five years ago, M & A consisted of bright people reading newspapers and chasing leads – altogether pretty crude."

"Now M & A specialists need to be more sophisticated and to have specialist knowledge of market sectors in order to survive."

Languages are another weapon in the armoury of the M & A specialist intent on remaining in employment. In Germany, for example, there are many privately owned medium-size companies looking for buyers because there are no further family members to take them over. German is therefore in particular demand.

The requirement for languages reflects the changing nature of the

The expert of the future will need the best personal skills and intellect'

strategically driven transactions than in the recent past."

Richard Heley, head of corporate finance at Hill Samuel, believes that those who aim to survive in such an environment, and to contribute to an upturn, will need "aggression, self-confidence, extroversion, egotism, high intellect, and an advanced degree of creativity, as well as being thick-skinned and willing to dash down doors."

Mr Heley says that M & A brokers – "the estate agents, as opposed to the barristers of the business" – will have to sell even more energetically. "Exhibitionists with marketing skills will have much to offer," he adds.

Anthony McGrath, director of specialist M & A department at Barings, is not so convinced by the requirement for arrogance identified by the Korn/Ferry survey. "The



"A shining example of an M & A expert": but Colin Keer, who is 42, left the mergers and acquisitions field this year to set up as a landscape and garden designer

M & A experts of the future will need excellent personal skills and a high degree of intellectual horsepower; a 'curly' mind, imagination and the ability to think laterally and creatively."

"As for arrogance, I think the market for arrogant people is limited – it tends to get in the way of communication."

Arrogant or no, says Cindy Cottman, head of Korn/Ferry's financial services sector in the UK, the M & A specialist must be highly competitive. "He or she needs to have the best idea, to have done the best research, and to negotiate the best financing package in order to be successful."

The creative mind, Mrs Cottman says, is important. She looks at past transactions for proof of this and for some evidence of interesting and demanding outside interests. Richard Heley, for example, has a bit more difficulty.

If they are coming from the leading financial houses, they face the alternative of moving to less eminent organisations, or of leaving the business altogether.

Ms Cottman cites Colin Keer as a shining example of an M & A expert who did just this. "He was

an area. These people are of such a calibre that they are rarely left without a job."

Most employers do their best to hang on to them. Hoare Govett, for example, which closed its M & A division in London completely, was able to reassign most of those who had worked in the division because of their adaptability.

In having a separate M & A department, Hoare Govett is typical of many American houses. British houses by contrast, tend to have M & A as a function of the corporate finance department.

This makes it easier for those leaving British houses to become finance directors or move to a corporate-acquisition function within industry. People leaving UK houses have a bit more difficulty.

If they are coming from the leading financial houses, they face the alternative of moving to less eminent organisations, or of leaving the business altogether.

Ms Cottman cites Colin Keer as a shining example of an M & A expert who did just this. "He was

successful and admired," she says. "His quitting came as a shock to the industry. He had the courage to bail out and do something that was likely to be more fun."

Mr Keer, who is 42, left Samuel Montagu and Bankers Trust this year to set up his own business as a

landscape and garden designer. His decision paid off, and even in these difficult times his business has started off extremely well, thanks to the unexpected support of many former clients.

Of 400 business acquaintances who were sent information about

Mr Keer's new business, more than half responded and he is now working on gardens in France and the United States as well as several here.

Not surprisingly, he is refreshingly enthusiastic about his move, but does he have any regrets? "Well," he says, "there wasn't much going on so it was a good time to pull out. But I miss the camaraderie, and I miss my secretary and all the nannying she gave me."

Those who are less entrepreneurial inclined, and who remain deeply enmeshed in the financial sector, have to face the fact that it will be a long time before the M & A market starts to include many of what Mr Kelley describes as "big ticket items", the exciting marriages of the big multinationals.

The market is now much more focused on smaller, less exhilarating deals, albeit spiced up by more international work. M & A experts, no matter how high-powered, will have to cut their coat according to their cloth.



Goodbye mega deals: Ed Kelley of Korn/Ferry Europe

071-481 4481

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

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MARKETING/BUSINESS CONSULTANCY Banking Environment

London Based

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Part of a worldwide organisation, our client is a major provider of application solutions to the banking sector.

A new business unit has been created to be responsible for the successful sell of total solutions involving software services and hardware into predominantly new business opportunities.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in addressing banking business problems and applying IT solutions. This will involve board level selling through to successful implementation of the solutions with project management resources.

The personal attributes of the successful candidate will be paramount. Consultancy experience will have been gained from a software house or management consultancy, where initiative, self starting and a positive attitude to solution resolution can be demonstrated.

This role would appeal to an individual who thrives on results and demands the freedom to achieve them.

If you are able to meet the demands of this challenging position, send a detailed curriculum vitae to Adrian Sullivan at Sullivan & Associates, 9 Cork Street, London W1X 1PD. Tel: 081-541 5882.

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EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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Rapid change, acquisition and an absolute commitment to quality and excellence have given the

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As an International Market Leader in the Financial services sector, with over 2,500 employees in the UK, my Client recognises that their ongoing success depends heavily on the commitment of a highly motivated and professional team to progressive corporate values. In this pioneering and dynamic environment, effective communications are of paramount importance.

Reporting to the Director of Personnel, you will be responsible for developing and managing existing and future Communications programmes, providing the necessary expertise to facilitate "best practice".

You are likely to be a Graduate in your late 20s/early 30s with a proven track record of corporate employer communications preferably gained in a substantial and progressive US organisation which has undergone fundamental and continuous change.

If you have the expertise, imagination and commitment to my Client's payroll of excellence, write with CV to Carolyn Clarke, Executive Director, 27 Brewery Lane, Shoreditch, Essex CM24 8LR. Tel: 08179 524971.

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Sales & Marketing Manager

Big opportunities in small PC packages

The notebook PC revolution is well underway, and with the latest generation currently capturing market share and user imagination, the sheer quality and innovation of Panasonic UK's latest products is about to be promoted.

That's where your dynamism and professionalism could come into its own as a Sales and Marketing Manager for Panasonic. Here, you'll define and initiate major sales strategies for innovative products carrying our unique stamp of quality on every component down to the last advanced detail.

Your graduate level

training and strong track record within PC manufacturing or distribution will have equipped you with the managerial flair to motivate your team and the industry insight to maximise our market share.

In return, you'll enjoy attractive rewards, competitive benefits including a company car and tremendous potential to enhance our success and advance your professional status.

Please write with a full CV to: Doreen Barber, Personnel Department, Panasonic House, Willoughby Road, Bradwell, Bexley RG12 8PP.

Panasonic Business Systems

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Regional Safety Adviser

SOUTH EAST

SALARY £23,329 - £27,819

More may be available for special qualifications or experience.

The Employment Department is responsible for running Government funded training and enterprise programmes. It is the Department's policy that trainees should have the highest possible standards of health and safety protection while taking part in such programmes, which are mainly delivered through local Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs).

As Regional Safety Adviser, you will be substantially involved with the negotiation and monitoring of the health and safety element of the Department's contracts with TECs. You will also help to promote health and safety activities in your Region through representation work and participating in the development of training courses and materials.

Preferably you should hold a nationally recognised Occupational Health and Safety qualification. You will have extensive knowledge of health and safety legislation and at least 5 years practical experience as a safety professional. Considerable travel is involved and a full UK driving licence is essential.

The appointment will be for 2 years initially with the possibility of extension for up to 5 further years to a total of 5 years.



ENGINEERING MANAGER

up to £38,000 + car
Automotive Components
North Midlands

This strategically important appointment is with a high volume manufacturer of automotive components. With a turnover in excess of £100m and employing over 4000, this multi-site operation is part of a major UK based international engineering group.



MANCHESTER WINDSOR PARIS STUTTGART MILAN MADRID PRAGUE

As Head of Engineering, reporting to the General Manager, you will co-ordinate the engineering functions of the various sites with specific responsibility for devising and implementing strategic decisions effecting new product and process development, central quality policy, computer integrated manufacturing systems and a central works engineering service.

With a relevant engineering degree and at least 10 years manufacturing experience, you will already be operating at a senior level, ideally within an automotive environment, where the development, control and direction of all engineering related and quality activities are amongst your key priorities. Above all, with your proven leadership, persuasive and organisational skills you will view this as an outstanding opportunity to contribute to profitable growth and operational efficiency.

If you feel you meet the exacting criteria you should send a comprehensive c.v. quoting reference AR/220 to: Derrick Franks, March Consulting Group, Telegraphic House, Waterfront 2000, Salford Quays, Manchester M5 2XW.

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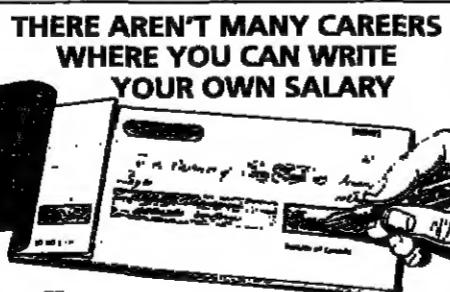
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Prosecution stays exceptional

Attorney-general's Reference (No 1 of 1990)
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Macpherson and Mr Justice Judge
Judgment April 13

Imposing a stay on a prosecution because of delay, even if the delay could be said to be unjustifiable, should be the exception rather than the rule, the Court of Appeal held in its recent judgment on a reference from the Attorney-general of a point of law under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972.

The reference followed an order by Judge Holden in Irlsworth Crown Court in accordance with submissions on behalf of the respondent, an officer of the Metropolitan Police, in stay proceedings against him for two offences of occasioning actual bodily harm, contrary to section 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, to the father and sister of brothers named Murphy on August 16, 1987.

Mr Anthony Hooper, QC and Mr Oliver Sells for the Attorney-general; Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC and Mr Peter Cooper for the respondent.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the respondent was called to an incident following a wedding party in west London. Two young men called Murphy were arrested and charged with public order offences.

As a result of the incident, a number of complaints by members of the public were made about the conduct of some of the police officers who had attended the incident. A formal investigation was mounted and, at the instance of the Director of Public Prosecutions, proceedings were launched against the respondent on March 2, 1989.

The trial was committed to Irlsworth Crown Court and came before Judge Holden on December 11, 1989. He accepted to the respondent's submissions and ordered the proceedings to be stayed. On December 22, the prosecution offered no evidence and a verdict of not guilty was entered by direction.

The question of delay was at the root of the reference.

The respondent was informed in the early hours of the day after the incident that a complaint had been made against him. He did not take the opportunity to consult a solicitor until March 1989 nor did he before then carry out or arrange for the carrying out of any investigations.

An interim police report was submitted in September 1987 and further investigation of the complaint was deferred until the

criminal proceedings against the Murphy brothers had been concluded, on January 19, 1988, when both were acquitted.

The investigation of the complaints against the respondent was resumed.

Many written statements and hundreds of documents were seized. The report comprised no fewer than 235 paragraphs and was supported by 112 pages of statements and 366 pages of documents.

The respondent consulted a solicitor for the first time after papers were served on him on March 20, 1989.

Judge Holden had said that he had concluded that the delay on a balance of probabilities might be prejudicial. He did not say that it was bound to be. He thought that the prosecution and investigation team had done the best of jobs in the right spirit and the fairest frame of mind and directed the proceedings to be stayed.

The Attorney-general's submission, in short, was that the judge's ruling was wrong.

Mr Arlidge based his submission primarily on the terms of clause 29 of the 1225 and 1297 editions of Magna Carta: "We will not deny or defer to any man either justice or right."

Their Lordships disagreed with the whole basis of the argument. The delay or deferral in the context of clause 29 meant at its lowest, wrongful delay or deferral, such as was not justified by the facts of the case.

There was no statutory limitation period for criminal proceedings such as those in the instant case.

His Lordship considered *Connelly v DPP* ([1964] AC 1254); *Mills v Cooper* ([1967] 2 QB 467); *DPP v. Humphrys* ([1977] AC 46) and *Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police* ([1982] AC 539).

The abuse alleged could arise in many different forms about methods used to investigate the offence. *A v Heston-François* ([1984] 1 QB 275) and a majority of the panel of three judges held that a stay could properly be imposed in the circumstances of the case.

In principle, stays imposed on the ground of delay or for any other reason should only be employed in exceptional circumstances. If they were to become a manner of routine, it would be only a short time before the public, understandably, viewed the process with suspicion and mistrust.

In principle, even where the delay could be said to be unjustifiable, the imposition of a permanent stay should be the exception rather than the rule. Still more rarely, should it be cases where a stay could properly be imposed in the circumstances of the case of the complainant or prosecutor.

Delay due merely to the complexity of the case or contributed to by the actions of the defendant himself was never to be the foundation for a stay.

The number of applications based on that ground had increased alarmingly over the past few years. *R v Derby Crown Court, Ex parte Brooks* ([1985] 2 Cr App R 164, 168) provided guidelines for courts faced with the problem of delay.

Their Lordships added to the statement of principle in *Ex parte*

Brooks by stressing that the trial process itself was equipped to deal with the bulk of complaints which had in recent Divisional Court cases founded application for a stay. *R v Heston-François* (at p290) merited more attention than it sometimes received.

Although decisions in such cases would very much depend on their own facts, it was not easy to see how some of the more recent cases with the principles enunciated in *Heston-François*. In *Arlidge's Criminal Pleading Evidence and Practice* (44th edition 1992) vol 1 paragraph 4-5 the most important of the cases was *R v Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Cherry* ([1990] 91 Cr App R 283).

The earlier and stricter rule had been broadened. Their Lordships felt themselves able to agree with Mr Hooper that the answer was a qualified "yes" to the first question on the reference, namely whether proceedings on indictment might be stayed on the ground of delay in the institution of the proceedings even though that delay had not been occasioned by any fault on the part of the prosecution.

Their Lordships hoped that the present judgment would result in a significant reduction in the number of applications to stay proceedings on the ground of delay. The exceptional nature of the jurisdiction was emphasised.

In the event of an unsuccessful application to the crown court on such grounds, the appropriate procedure would be for the trial to proceed in accordance with the ruling of the trial judge as if no stay had been granted. The point should be argued as part of any appeal to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division.

Solicitors: CPS, HQ, Reynolds Dawson.

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Delay due merely to the complexity of the case or contributed to by the actions of the defendant himself was never to be the foundation for a stay.

No stay was to be imposed unless the defendant showed on the balance of probabilities that, owing to the delay, he would suffer serious prejudice to the extent that no fair trial could be held; in other words, that the continuance of the prosecution amounted to a misuse of the process of delay.

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Their Lordships added to the statement of principle in *Ex parte*

Carr (Inspector of Taxes) v Sayer and Another
Sayer and Another v Carr (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Sir Donald Nichols, Vice-Chancellor
[Judgment April 2]

Expenditure on constructing permanent quarantine kennels for cats and dogs brought into the United Kingdom from abroad was not incurred on the provision of machinery or plant and did not qualify for capital allowances under the provisions of sections 41 or 42 of the Finance Act 1971.

Moreover, the animals could not be described as goods being stored on their arrival into the United Kingdom within the meaning of section 7(1)(b) of the Capital Allowances Act 1968 so that there was no entitlement to the industrial buildings allowance given by section 10 of that Act.

Mr Launcel Henderson for the Crown, the taxpayer did not appear and was not represented.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the taxpayers carried on a business of providing quarantine kennels for cats and dogs.

By section 41 of the 1971 Act a first-year allowance was available to a person carrying on a trade incurring capital expenditure on the provision of machinery or plant.

There was no statutory definition of "plant" but it carried a connotation of equipment or apparatus.

It did not convey a meaning wide enough to include buildings in general.

In the alternative, the taxpayers claimed entitlement under section

Sayer, from a determination by Eddie Grinstead general commissioners that had upheld appeals against income tax assessments for the years from 1984 to 1987.

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In the alternative, the taxpayers claimed entitlement under section

or factory, at or in which a business was carried on would not normally be understood as intended to be embraced by the expression "machinery or plant".

Tax incentives, now phased out, had been available for certain types of capital expenditure by non-residents and that was the bottom line.

However, equipment did not cease to be plant because it was so substantial that, when fixed, it advanced the label of a structure or even a building. Conversely, buildings did not cease to be buildings and became plant simply because they were purpose built for a particular trading activity.

The kennels were purpose built permanent buildings or structures and they were used as such. Notwithstanding their special design features they were the premises at which and in which the taxpayers' business was conducted.

They were not to be classified as plant.

In the alternative, the taxpayers claimed entitlement under section

All (Mohram) v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Nolan
[Judgment April 2]

The manner in which a local authority performed its duty to house persons found to be homeless could be challenged only by way of judicial review. Unless he could establish a breach of a private law right, a homeless person who was offered accommodation he considered unsuitable could not challenge the council's decision on its merits.

The Court of Appeal so held in upholding an appeal by Tower Hamlets London Borough Council from a decision of Mr Recorder Lockhart-Mummery, QC, at Bow County Court on December 17, 1991 on a preliminary issue whether accommodation offered to the applicant under section 106 of the Housing Act 1996 was suitable to be determined by the county court in proceedings for breach of statutory duty.

If, as a matter of public law, the council had properly completed the process of deciding upon the suitable accommodation which it was obliged to secure for Mr Ali, his consequential private law right was simply a right to the accommodation which the council had decided to be suitable. The appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Parker agreed:

Solicitors: Mr J. E. Marlowe, Bethnal Green; T. V. Edwards & Co. Stepney.

Correction

In *Parkway DPP* (The Times April 2) the decision unsuccessfully appealed against was by Barnet Justices.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN said that Mr Ali had been designated as homeless by the council which had taken on a duty to secure that accommodation was made available to him and his family.

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